

CARRIAGE SERVICES INC

Form 10-Q

May 05, 2015

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 1-11961

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

76-0423828

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

3040 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 300

Houston, Texas, 77056

(Address of principal executive offices)

(713) 332-8400

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The number of shares of the registrant's Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share, outstanding as of May 1, 2015 was 18,508,874.



Table of Contents

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.  
INDEX

	Page
<u>PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three Months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Three Months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Cautionary Statement on Forward–Looking Statements</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>PART II – OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>INDEX OF EXHIBITS</u>	<u>50</u>

Table of Contents

## PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

## CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except share data)

	December 31, 2014	(unaudited) March 31, 2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$413	\$317
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts of \$1,127 in 2014 and \$1,102 in 2015	19,264	18,637
Inventories	5,294	5,432
Prepaid expenses	4,590	4,556
Other current assets	7,144	2,369
Total current assets	36,705	31,311
Preneed cemetery trust investments	71,972	72,534
Preneed funeral trust investments	97,607	97,240
Preneed receivables, net of allowance for bad debts of \$2,339 in 2014 and \$1,975 in 2015	26,284	26,431
Receivables from preneed trusts	12,809	12,795
Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$95,249 in 2014 and \$97,565 in 2015	186,211	193,984
Cemetery property	75,564	75,264
Goodwill	257,442	261,291
Deferred charges and other non-current assets	14,264	15,136
Cemetery perpetual care trust investments	48,670	49,249
Total assets	\$827,528	\$835,235
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt and capital lease obligations	\$9,838	\$10,624
Accounts payable	6,472	6,463
Other liabilities	1,437	788
Accrued liabilities	15,203	12,211
Total current liabilities	32,950	30,086
Long-term debt, net of current portion	111,887	112,972
Revolving credit facility	40,500	41,000
Convertible subordinated notes due 2021	114,542	115,369
Obligations under capital leases, net of current portion	3,098	3,044
Deferred preneed cemetery revenue	56,875	56,871
Deferred preneed funeral revenue	31,265	31,187
Deferred tax liability	36,414	36,487
Other long-term liabilities	2,401	3,086
Deferred preneed cemetery receipts held in trust	71,972	72,534
Deferred preneed funeral receipts held in trust	97,607	97,240
Care trusts' corpus	48,142	49,184
Total liabilities	647,653	649,060
Commitments and contingencies:		

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Stockholders' equity:

Common stock, \$.01 par value; 80,000,000 shares authorized and 22,434,000 shares issued at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015	224	224
Additional paid-in capital	212,386	212,268
Accumulated deficit	(17,468	) (11,050
Treasury stock, at cost; 3,922,000 shares at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015	(15,267	) (15,267
Total stockholders' equity	179,875	186,175
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$827,528	\$835,235

The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(unaudited and in thousands, except per share data)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Revenues:		
Funeral	\$43,964	\$50,137
Cemetery	11,688	13,116
	55,652	63,253
Field costs and expenses:		
Funeral	25,883	28,415
Cemetery	6,960	7,302
Depreciation and amortization	2,415	2,802
Regional and unallocated funeral and cemetery costs	2,379	2,525
	37,637	41,044
Gross profit	18,015	22,209
Corporate costs and expenses:		
General and administrative costs and expenses	9,335	7,170
Home office depreciation and amortization	342	520
	9,677	7,690
Operating income	8,338	14,519
Interest expense	(2,844	) (2,550
Accretion of discount on convertible subordinated notes	(171	) (827
Loss on redemption of convertible junior subordinated debentures	(3,779	) —
Other income (loss)	1,130	(119
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	2,674	11,023
Provision for income taxes	(1,043	) (4,605
Net income from continuing operations	1,631	6,418
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax	587	—
Net income available to common stockholders	\$2,218	\$6,418
Basic earnings per common share:		
Continuing operations	\$0.09	\$0.35
Discontinued operations	0.03	—
Basic earnings per common share	\$0.12	\$0.35
Diluted earnings per common share:		
Continuing operations	\$0.09	\$0.34
Discontinued operations	0.03	—
Diluted earnings per common share	\$0.12	\$0.34
Dividends declared per common share	\$0.025	\$0.025
Weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares outstanding:		
Basic	17,984	18,208
Diluted	18,143	18,804

The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.



Table of Contents

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(unaudited and in thousands)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$2,218	\$6,418
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Gain on sale of businesses and purchase of other assets	(2,039	) —
Depreciation and amortization	2,764	3,322
Amortization of deferred financing costs	232	226
Accretion of discount on convertible subordinated notes	171	827
Provision for losses on accounts receivable	700	424
Stock-based compensation expense	1,491	1,089
Deferred income tax (benefit) expense	(4,780	) 1,559
Loss on redemption of convertible junior subordinated debentures	2,932	—
Other	(3	) —
Changes in operating assets and liabilities that provided (required) cash:		
Accounts and preneed receivables	(245	) 56
Inventories and other current assets	299	3,224
Deferred charges and other	(318	) 111
Preneed funeral and cemetery trust investments	(5,258	) (760
Accounts payable	(2,566	) (9
Accrued and other liabilities	(2,387	) (5,020
Deferred preneed funeral and cemetery revenue	(37	) (82
Deferred preneed funeral and cemetery receipts held in trust	5,208	1,237
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(1,618	) 12,622
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisitions	—	(4,250
Net proceeds from the sale of businesses and other assets	200	—
Capital expenditures	(5,048	) (6,398
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,848	) (10,648
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net (payments) borrowings on the revolving credit facility	(36,900	) 500
Net payments on the term loan	(3,000	) (2,344
Payments on other long-term debt and obligations under capital leases	(185	) (370
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options and employee stock purchase plan contributions	652	212
Dividends on common stock	(456	) (463
Payment of loan origination costs related to the credit facility	—	(13
Excess tax benefit of equity compensation	5,596	408
Proceeds from the issuance of convertible subordinated notes	143,750	—
Payment of debt issuance costs related to the convertible subordinated notes	(4,355	) —
Redemption of convertible junior subordinated debentures	(61,905	) —
Payments for performance-based stock awards	(16,150	) —
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	27,047	(2,070



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Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	20,581	(96	)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,377	413	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$21,958	\$317	

The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

- 5 -

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Table of Contents

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.

CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Company

Carriage Services, Inc. (“Carriage”, the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our”) is a leading provider of deathcare services and merchandise in the United States. As of March 31, 2015, we operated 165 funeral homes in 27 states and 32 cemeteries in 11 states.

Our operations are reported in two business segments: Funeral Home Operations and Cemetery Operations. Funeral homes are principally service businesses that provide funeral services (traditional burial and cremation) and sell related merchandise, such as caskets and urns. Cemeteries are primarily sales businesses that provide interment rights (grave sites and mausoleums) and related merchandise, such as markers and memorials.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements include the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Interim Condensed Disclosures

The information for the three month periods ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 is unaudited, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments which are normal, recurring and necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations as of and for the interim periods presented. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in annual financial statements have been condensed or omitted. The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared consistent with the accounting policies described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and should be read in conjunction therewith.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

We consider all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates and judgments, including those related to revenue recognition, realization of accounts receivable, goodwill, intangible assets, property and equipment and deferred tax assets and liabilities. We base our estimates on historical experience, third-party data and assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. The results of these considerations form the basis for making judgments about the amount and timing of revenues and expenses, the carrying value of assets and the recorded amounts of liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates and such estimates may change if the underlying conditions or assumptions change. Historical performance should not be viewed as indicative of future performance, as there can be no assurance that our results of operations will be consistent from year to year.

Funeral and Cemetery Operations

We record the revenue from sales of funeral and cemetery merchandise and services when the merchandise is delivered or the service is performed. Sales of cemetery interment rights are recorded as revenue in accordance with the retail land sales provisions for accounting for sales of real estate. This method provides for the recognition of revenue in the period in which the customer’s cumulative payments exceed 10% of the contract price related to the interment right. Costs related to the sales of interment rights, which include real property and other costs related to cemetery development activities, are charged to operations using the specific identification method in the period in which the sale of the interment right is recognized as revenue. Revenues to be recognized from the delivery of merchandise and performance of services related to contracts that were acquired in acquisitions are typically lower than those originated by us. Sales taxes collected are recognized on a net basis in our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Allowances for bad debts and customer cancellations are provided at the date that the sale is recognized as revenue and are based on our historical experience and the current economic environment. We also monitor changes in

delinquency rates

- 6 -

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Table of Contents

and provide additional bad debt and cancellation reserves when warranted. When preneed sales of funeral services and merchandise are funded through third-party insurance policies, we earn a commission on the sale of the policies. Insurance commissions are recognized as revenues at the point at which the commission is no longer subject to refund, which is typically one year after the policy is issued.

Accounts receivable included approximately \$10.0 million and \$8.9 million of funeral receivables at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015, respectively, and \$9.1 million and \$9.5 million of cemetery receivables at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015, respectively. For 2014 and 2015, accounts receivable also included minor amounts of other receivables. Non-current preneed receivables represented the payments expected to be received beyond one year from the balance sheet date. Non-current preneed receivables consisted of approximately \$7.4 million and \$7.5 million of funeral receivables at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015, respectively, and \$18.9 million of cemetery receivables at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015. Bad debt expense totaled approximately \$0.7 million and \$0.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

**Preneed Funeral and Cemetery Trust Funds**

Our preneed and perpetual care trust funds are reported in accordance with the principles of consolidating Variable Interest Entities (“VIEs”). An enterprise is required to perform an analysis to determine whether the enterprise’s variable interest(s) give it a controlling financial interest in a VIE. This analysis identifies the primary beneficiary of a VIE as the enterprise that has both the power to direct the activities of a VIE that most significantly impact the entity’s economic performance and the obligation to absorb losses of the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE, or the right to receive benefits from the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE. Our analysis continues to support our position as the primary beneficiary in the majority of our funeral and cemetery trust funds.

In the case of preneed trusts, the customers are the legal beneficiaries. In the case of perpetual care trusts, we do not have a right to access the corpus in the perpetual care trusts. For these reasons, we have recognized financial interests of third parties in the trust funds in our financial statements as Deferred preneed funeral and cemetery receipts held in trust and Care trusts’ corpus. The investments of such trust funds are classified as available-for-sale and are reported at fair market value; therefore, the unrealized gains and losses, as well as accumulated and undistributed income and realized gains and losses are recorded to Deferred preneed funeral and cemetery receipts held in trust and Care trusts’ corpus on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Our future obligations to deliver merchandise and services are reported at estimated settlement amounts. Preneed funeral and cemetery trust investments are reduced by the trust investment earnings that we have been allowed to withdraw in certain states prior to maturity. These earnings, along with preneed contract collections not required by state law to be placed in trust, are recorded in Deferred preneed funeral revenue and Deferred preneed cemetery revenue until the service is performed or the merchandise is delivered.

In accordance with respective state laws, we are required to deposit a specified amount into perpetual and memorial care trust funds for each interment/entombment right and certain memorials sold. Income from the trust funds is distributed to us and used to provide care and maintenance of the cemeteries and mausoleums. Such trust fund income is recognized as revenue when realized by the trust and distributable to us. We are restricted from withdrawing any of the principal balances of these funds.

An enterprise is required to perform an analysis to determine whether the enterprise’s variable interest(s) give it a controlling financial interest in a VIE. This analysis identifies the primary beneficiary of a VIE as the enterprise that has both the power to direct the activities of a VIE that most significantly impact the entity’s economic performance and the obligation to absorb losses of the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE, or the right to receive benefits from the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE. Our analysis continues to support our position as the primary beneficiary in the majority of our funeral and cemetery trust funds.

Trust management fees are earned by us for investment management and advisory services that are provided by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor (“CSV RIA”). As of March 31, 2015, CSV RIA provided these services to two institutions, which have custody of 76% of our trust assets, for a fee based on the market value of trust assets.

Under state trust laws, we are allowed to charge the trust a fee for advising on the investment of the trust assets and these fees are recognized as income in the period in which services are provided.



Table of Contents

## Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment (including equipment under capital leases) are stated at cost. The costs of ordinary maintenance and repairs are charged to operations as incurred, while renewals and betterments are capitalized. Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (including equipment under capital leases) is computed based on the straight-line method.

Property, plant and equipment was comprised of the following at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015:

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
	(in thousands)	
Land	\$66,957	\$68,107
Buildings and improvements	148,483	156,257
Furniture, equipment and automobiles	66,020	67,185
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	281,460	291,549
Less: accumulated depreciation	(95,249	) (97,565
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$186,211	\$193,984

We recorded depreciation expense of approximately \$2.2 million and \$2.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

## Discontinued Operations

Effective January 1, 2015, we adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's ("FASB") new guidance for reporting discontinued operations. In April 2014, the FASB amended the definition of "discontinued operations" to include only disposals or held-for-sale classifications for components or groups of components of an entity that represent a strategic shift that either has or will have a major effect on the entity's operations or financial results. Examples of a strategic shift that has or will have a major effect on an entity's operations and financial results include a disposal of a major geographical area, line of business, equity method of investment or other parts of an entity. We continually review locations to optimize the sustainable earning power and return on our invested capital. These reviews could entail selling certain non-strategic businesses. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, there were no divestitures of our funeral or cemetery businesses.

## Business Combinations

Tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed are recorded at fair value and goodwill is recognized for any difference between the price of the acquisition and fair value. We customarily estimate related transaction costs known at closing. To the extent that information not available to us at the closing date of an acquisition subsequently becomes available during the allocation period, we may adjust goodwill, assets or liabilities associated with such acquisition. Acquisition related costs are recognized separately from acquisitions and are expensed as incurred. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we acquired one funeral home business in Clarksville, Tennessee. See Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein for more information concerning this acquisition. There were no business acquisitions in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

## Goodwill

The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable net assets of businesses acquired is recorded as goodwill. Goodwill has primarily been recorded in connection with the acquisition of funeral businesses. Goodwill is tested annually for impairment by assessing the fair value of each of our reporting units. The funeral segment reporting units consist of our East, Central and West regions in the United States, and we perform our annual impairment test of goodwill using information as of August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. In addition, we assess the impairment of goodwill whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be greater than fair value. Factors that could trigger an interim impairment review include, but are not limited to, significant adverse changes in the business climate which may be indicated by a decline in our market capitalization or decline in operating results. Our methodology for goodwill impairment testing is described in more detail in Notes 1 and 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and further discussion of current period goodwill activity is included in Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein.



## Table of Contents

### Intangible Assets

Our intangible assets include tradenames resulting from acquisitions. Our tradenames are included in Deferred charges and other non-current assets on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Our tradenames are considered to have an indefinite life and are not subject to amortization. We test for impairment of intangible assets annually at the end of each year.

In addition to our annual review, we assess the impairment of intangible assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be greater than the fair value. Factors that could trigger an interim impairment review include, but are not limited to, significant under performance relative to historical results and significant negative industry or economic trends.

### Stock Plans and Stock-Based Compensation

We have stock-based employee and director compensation plans under which we may grant restricted stock, stock options, performance awards and stock from our employee stock purchase plan, which are described in more detail in Note 18 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. We recognize compensation expense in an amount equal to the fair value of the share-based awards expected to vest over the requisite service period. Fair value is determined on the date of the grant. The fair value of options or awards containing options is determined using the Black-Scholes valuation model. See Note 15 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein for additional information on our stock-based compensation plans.

### Computation of Earnings Per Common Share

Basic earnings per share is computed using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed using the weighted average number of common and dilutive common equivalent shares outstanding during the period. Dilutive common equivalent shares consist of stock options and our convertible subordinated notes.

Share-based awards that contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents, whether paid or unpaid, are recognized as participating securities and included in the computation of both basic and diluted earnings per share. Our grants of restricted stock awards to our employees and directors are considered participating securities, and we have prepared our earnings per share calculations attributable to common stockholders to exclude outstanding unvested restricted stock awards, using the two-class method, in both the basic and diluted weighted average shares outstanding calculation.

The fully diluted weighted average shares outstanding for the three months ended March 31, 2015, and the corresponding calculation of fully diluted earnings per share, include approximately 0.3 million shares that would have been issued upon the conversion of our convertible subordinated notes as a result of the application of the if-converted method prescribed by the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 260.

### Fair Value Measurements

We define fair value as the price that would be received on the sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually). We disclose the extent to which fair value is used to measure financial assets and liabilities, the inputs utilized in calculating valuation measurements, and the effect of the measurement of significant unobservable inputs on earnings, or changes in net assets, as of the measurement date. We currently do not have any assets that have fair values determined by Level 3 inputs and no liabilities measured at fair value. We have not elected to measure any additional financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value.

To determine the fair value of assets and liabilities in an environment where the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased, the exit price is used as the fair value measurement. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, we did not incur significant decreases in the volume or level of activity of any asset or liability. We consider an impairment of debt and equity securities other-than-temporary unless (a) the investor has the ability and intent to hold an investment and (b) evidence indicating the cost of the investment is recoverable before we are more likely than not required to sell the investment. If an impairment is indicated, then an adjustment is made to reduce the carrying amount to fair value with a corresponding reduction to deferred preneed receipts held in trust. In the three months ended March 31, 2015, we recorded impairments totaling \$1.8 million for other-than-temporary



declines in the fair value related to unrealized losses on certain investments. Refer to Notes 5 and 9 for further discussion concerning these impairments. We did not record any impairments in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

- 9 -

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## Table of Contents

In the ordinary course of business, we are typically exposed to a variety of market risks. Currently, these are primarily related to changes in fair market values related to outstanding debts and changes in the values of securities associated with the preneed and perpetual care trusts. Management is actively involved in monitoring exposure to market risk and developing and utilizing risk management techniques when appropriate and when available for a reasonable price. Additional required disclosures are provided in Notes 5, 9 and 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein.

### Income Taxes

We and our subsidiaries file a consolidated U.S. Federal income tax return, separate income tax returns in 14 states in which we operate and combined or unitary income tax returns in 13 states in which we operate. We record deferred taxes for temporary differences between the tax basis and financial reporting basis of assets and liabilities. We record a valuation allowance to reflect the estimated amount of deferred tax assets for which realization is uncertain. Management reviews the valuation allowance at the end of each quarter and makes adjustments if it is determined that it is more likely than not that the tax benefits will be realized.

We analyze tax benefits for uncertain tax positions and how they are to be recognized, measured and derecognized in financial statements; provide certain disclosures of uncertain tax matters; and specify how reserves for uncertain tax positions should be classified on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We have reviewed our income tax positions and identified certain tax deductions, primarily related to business acquisitions that are not certain. Our policy with respect to potential penalties and interest is to record them as "Other" expense and "Interest" expense, respectively. While we do not anticipate a material change of our unrecognized tax benefits during the next twelve months, the entire balance of unrecognized tax benefits, if recognized, would affect our effective tax rate.

### Subsequent Events

Management evaluated events and transactions during the period subsequent to March 31, 2015 through the date the financial statements were issued for potential recognition or disclosure in the accompanying financial statements covered by this report.

## 2. RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

### Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU"), Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs. To simplify the presentation of debt issuance costs, the amendments in this ASU require that entities that have historically presented debt issuance costs as an asset, related to a recognized debt liability, will be required to present those costs as a direct deduction from the carrying value of the related debt liability. This presentation will result in debt issuance costs being presented in the same way debt discounts have historically been handled. This ASU does not change the recognition, measurement or subsequent measurement guidance for debt issuance costs. This ASU is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption of this ASU is permitted for financial statements that have not been previously issued. The new guidance should be applied on a retrospective basis, wherein the balance sheet of each individual period presented should be adjusted to reflect the period-specific effects of applying the new guidance. Upon transition, an entity is required to comply with the applicable disclosures for a change in an accounting principle. These disclosures include the nature and reason for the change in accounting principle, the transition method, a description of the prior-period information that has been retrospectively adjusted, and the effect of the change on debt issuance costs asset and the debt liability. Our adoption of this ASU is not expected to have a material effect on our financial statements. We plan to adopt the provisions of this ASU for our fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016.

### Extraordinary and Unusual Items

In January 2015, the FASB issued an amendment to ASC Subtopic 225-20, Income Statement - Extraordinary and Unusual Items. This amendment eliminates the concept of reporting extraordinary items. Extraordinary items are events and transactions that are distinguished by their unusual nature and by the infrequency of their occurrence. Preparers will not have to assess whether a particular event or transaction is extraordinary and likewise, auditors and regulators no longer need to evaluate whether a preparer treated an unusual and/or infrequent item appropriately. The presentation and disclosure guidance for items that are unusual in nature or occur infrequently will be retained and will be expanded to include such items. The amendment is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those

fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015. A reporting entity may apply the amendment prospectively. A reporting entity also may apply the amendment retrospectively to all prior periods presented in the financial statements. Early adoption is permitted provided that the guidance is applied from the beginning of

- 10 -

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Table of Contents

the fiscal year of adoption. Our adoption of this amendment to Subtopic 225-20 is not expected to have a material effect on our financial statements. We plan to adopt the provisions of ASC Subtopic 225-20 for our fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016.

#### Revenue from Contracts with Customers

In May 2014, the FASB created ASC Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. ASC Topic 606 supersedes the revenue recognition requirements under ASC Topic 605, Revenue Recognition, and most industry-specific guidance throughout the Industry Topics of the ASC. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Under the new guidance, an entity is required to perform the following five steps: (1) identify the contract(s) with a customer; (2) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (3) determine the transaction price; (4) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract; and (5) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. The new guidance will significantly enhance comparability of revenue recognition practices across entities, industries, jurisdictions and capital markets. Additionally, the guidance requires improved disclosures as to the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue that is recognized. The new guidance is effective for the annual reporting period beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period. Early adoption is not permitted. On April 1, 2015, the FASB voted to propose an amendment to delay the effective date of the new rules on revenue recognition for one year, which is currently in a comment period. If the FASB moves forward with the proposal, the new effective date will be for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within that reporting period. Entities can still adopt the amendments as of the original effective date for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. We are currently evaluating the impact the adoption of this new accounting standard will have on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

### 3. ACQUISITIONS

Our growth strategy includes the execution of our Strategic Acquisition Model. We assess the strategic positioning of acquisition candidates based on the demographics, strength of brand, competitive standing, market size, market share, barriers to entry and volume and price trends. The value of the acquisition candidates is based on local market competitive dynamic which allows for appropriate and differentiating enterprise valuations and flexibility to customize the transactions.

On February 25, 2015, we acquired a funeral home business in Clarksville, Tennessee for approximately \$8.8 million. The purchase price consisted of cash of approximately \$4.3 million which was paid at closing and \$4.5 million which represents the net present value of future deferred payments totaling \$5.5 million. The deferred payments are being paid in 20 equal quarterly installments of approximately \$0.3 million commencing on the close date and each January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 for the next five years. We acquired substantially all of the assets of the business. The pro forma impact of the acquisition on the prior period is not presented as the impact is not material to our Consolidated Financial Statements. The results of this acquisition are included in our results of operations from the date of the acquisition.

The following table summarizes the fair value of the assets acquired (in thousands):

Current assets	\$39
Property, plant & equipment	3,697
Goodwill	3,849
Deferred charges and other non-current assets	1,196
Purchase price	\$8,781

The Deferred charges and other non-current assets relate to the fair value of tradenames we acquired. There were no business acquisitions in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

### 4. GOODWILL

Many of the former owners and staff of acquired funeral homes and certain cemeteries have provided high quality service to families for generations. The resulting loyalty often represents a substantial portion of the value of a business. The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of net identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed, as determined by management in business acquisition transactions accounted for as purchases, is recorded as

goodwill.

- 11 -

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Table of Contents

The following table presents the changes in goodwill on our Consolidated Balance Sheets during the three months ended March 31, 2015 (in thousands):

Goodwill as of December 31, 2014	\$257,442
Increase in goodwill related to acquisitions	3,849
Goodwill as of March 31, 2015	\$261,291

The \$3.8 million increase to goodwill related to acquisitions represents the goodwill recorded in connection with the funeral home acquired in February 2015.

#### 5. PRENEED TRUST INVESTMENT

##### Preneed Cemetery Trust Investments

Preneed cemetery trust investments represent trust fund assets that we are generally permitted to withdraw when the merchandise or services are provided. The components of Preneed cemetery trust investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Preneed cemetery trust investments, at fair value	\$74,198	\$74,742
Less: allowance for contract cancellation	(2,226	) (2,208
Preneed cemetery trust investments, net	\$71,972	\$72,534

Upon cancellation of a preneed cemetery contract, a customer is generally entitled to receive a refund of the corpus, and in some cases, some or all of the earnings held in trust. In certain jurisdictions, we may be obligated to fund any shortfall if the amounts deposited by the customer exceed the funds in trust, including some or all investment income. As a result, when realized or unrealized losses of a trust result in the trust being under funded, we assess whether we are responsible for replenishing the corpus of the trust, in which case a loss provision is recorded. At March 31, 2015, our preneed cemetery trust investments were not under-funded.

Earnings from our preneed cemetery trust investments are recognized in revenue when a service is performed or merchandise is delivered. Trust management fees charged by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor are included in revenue in the period in which they are earned.

Where quoted prices are available in an active market, investments held by the trusts are classified as Level 1 investments pursuant to the three-level valuation hierarchy. Our Level 1 investments include cash and common stock. Where quoted market prices are not available for the specific security, fair values are estimated by using quoted prices of similar securities in active markets or other inputs other than quoted prices that can corroborate observable market data. These investments are fixed income securities including municipal bonds, foreign debt, corporate debt, preferred stocks and mortgage backed securities, all of which are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. We review and update our fair value hierarchy classifications quarterly. There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 in the three months ended March 31, 2015. There are no Level 3 investments in the preneed cemetery trust investment portfolio. See Note 10 for further information of the fair value measurement and the three-level valuation hierarchy.

Table of Contents

The cost and fair market values associated with preneed cemetery trust investments at March 31, 2015 are detailed below (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$1,028	\$—	\$—	\$1,028	
Fixed income securities:						
Municipal bonds	2	348	—	(12	) 336	
Foreign debt	2	6,060	72	(261	) 5,871	
Corporate debt	2	29,393	494	(987	) 28,900	
Preferred stock	2	18,828	343	(300	) 18,871	
Common stock	1	17,952	2,235	(1,484	) 18,703	
Trust securities		\$73,609	\$3,144	\$(3,044	) \$73,709	
Accrued investment income		\$1,033			\$1,033	
Preneed cemetery trust investments					\$74,742	
Market value as a percentage of cost					100.1	%

The estimated maturities of the fixed income securities included above are as follows (in thousands):

Due in one year or less	\$18
Due in one to five years	5,998
Due in five to ten years	7,154
Thereafter	40,808
Total	\$53,978

The cost and fair market values associated with preneed cemetery trust investments at December 31, 2014 are detailed below (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$5,591	\$—	\$—	\$5,591	
Fixed income securities:						
Municipal bonds	2	347	9	—	356	
Foreign debt	2	5,874	—	(237	) 5,637	
Corporate debt	2	30,108	362	(2,167	) 28,303	
Preferred stock	2	19,154	199	(325	) 19,028	
Mortgage backed securities	2	1	—	—	1	
Common stock	1	13,128	2,357	(966	) 14,519	
Trust securities		\$74,203	\$2,927	\$(3,695	) \$73,435	
Accrued investment income		\$763			\$763	
Preneed cemetery trust investments					\$74,198	
Market value as a percentage of cost					99.0	%

We determine whether or not the assets in the preneed cemetery trust investments have an other-than-temporary impairment on a security-by-security basis. This assessment is made based upon a number of criteria including the length of time a security has been in a loss position, changes in market conditions and concerns related to the specific issuer. If a loss is considered to be other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the security is adjusted downward to its fair market value. Any reduction in the cost basis of the investment due to an other-than-temporary impairment is likewise recorded as a reduction in Deferred preneed cemetery receipts held in trust on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we recorded a \$0.7 million impairment for other-than-temporary declines in the fair value related to unrealized losses on certain investments. We did not record any impairments in the three months ended March 31, 2014. There will be no impact on earnings until such time that the loss is realized in the trusts, allocated to the preneed contracts and the services are





Table of Contents

performed or the merchandise is delivered causing the contract to be withdrawn from the trust in accordance with state regulations.

At March 31, 2015, we had certain investments within our preneed cemetery trust investments that had tax lots in loss positions for more than one year. Based on our analyses of these securities, the companies' businesses and current market conditions, we determined that these investment losses were temporary in nature.

Our cemetery merchandise and service trust investment unrealized losses, their associated fair market values, and the duration of unrealized losses as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, are shown in the following tables (in thousands):

	March 31, 2015					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
Municipal bonds	\$336	\$(12 )	\$—	\$—	\$336	\$(12 )
Foreign debt	3,579	(261 )	—	—	3,579	(261 )
Corporate debt	18,431	(448 )	2,488	(539 )	20,919	(987 )
Preferred stock	7,340	(235 )	4,734	(65 )	12,074	(300 )
Common stock	14,623	(1,360 )	139	(124 )	14,762	(1,484 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$44,309	\$(2,316 )	\$7,361	\$(728 )	\$51,670	\$(3,044 )

	December 31, 2014					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
Foreign debt	\$5,629	\$(237 )	\$—	\$—	\$5,629	\$(237 )
Corporate debt	18,051	(778 )	2,016	(1,389 )	20,067	(2,167 )
Preferred stock	10,342	(289 )	3,236	(36 )	13,578	(325 )
Common stock	6,904	(911 )	65	(55 )	6,969	(966 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$40,926	\$(2,215 )	\$5,317	\$(1,480 )	\$46,243	\$(3,695 )

Preneed cemetery trust investment security transactions recorded in Interest expense on our Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Investment income	\$543	\$517
Realized gains	539	358
Realized losses	(188 )	(798 )
Expenses and taxes	(558 )	(319 )
(Increase) decrease in deferred preneed cemetery receipts held in trust	(336 )	242
	\$—	\$—

Purchases and sales of investments in the preneed cemetery trusts were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Purchases	\$8,160	\$(7,008 )
Sales	\$8,537	\$2,752



Table of Contents

## Preneed Funeral Trust Investments

Preneed funeral trust investments represent trust fund assets that we are permitted to withdraw as services and merchandise are provided to customers. Preneed funeral contracts are secured by funds paid by the customer to us. Preneed funeral trust investments are reduced by the trust earnings we have been allowed to withdraw prior to our performance and amounts received from customers that are not required to be deposited into trust, pursuant to various state laws. The components of Preneed funeral trust investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Preneed funeral trust investments, at market value	\$ 100,579	\$ 100,162
Less: allowance for contract cancellation	(2,972	) (2,922 )
Preneed funeral trust investments, net	\$ 97,607	\$ 97,240

Upon cancellation of a preneed funeral contract, a customer is generally entitled to receive a refund of the corpus and some or all of the earnings held in trust. In certain jurisdictions, we may be obligated to fund any shortfall if the amounts deposited by the customer exceed the funds in trust, including some or all investment income. As a result, when realized or unrealized losses of a trust result in the trust being under-funded, we assess whether we are responsible for replenishing the corpus of the trust, in which case a loss provision is recorded. At March 31, 2015, our preneed funeral trust investments were not under-funded.

Earnings from our preneed funeral trust investments are recognized in revenue when a service is performed or merchandise is delivered. Trust management fees charged by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor are included in revenue in the period in which they are earned.

Where quoted prices are available in an active market, investments held by the trusts are classified as Level 1 investments pursuant to the three-level valuation hierarchy. Our Level 1 investments include cash, U. S. treasury debt, common stock and equity mutual funds. Where quoted market prices are not available for the specific security, then fair values are estimated by using quoted prices of similar securities in active markets or other inputs other than quoted prices that can corroborate observable market data. These investments are fixed income securities including U.S. agency obligations, municipal bonds, foreign debt, corporate debt, preferred stocks, mortgage backed securities and fixed income mutual funds and other investments, all of which are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. We review and update our fair value hierarchy classifications quarterly. There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 for the three months ended March 31, 2015. There are no Level 3 investments in the preneed funeral trust investment portfolio. See Note 10 for further information of the fair value measurement and the three-level valuation hierarchy.

Table of Contents

The cost and fair market values associated with preneed funeral trust investments at March 31, 2015 are detailed below (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$13,589	\$—	\$—	\$13,589	
Fixed income securities:						
U.S treasury debt	1	2,035	40	—	2,075	
U.S. agency obligations	2	30	1	—	31	
Municipal bonds	2	272	—	(10)	262	
Foreign debt	2	4,740	56	(206)	4,590	
Corporate debt	2	23,619	556	(771)	23,404	
Preferred stock	2	15,721	397	(235)	15,883	
Mortgage backed securities	2	295	6	(2)	299	
Common stock	1	14,179	1,803	(1,183)	14,799	
Mutual funds:						
Equity	1	14,082	1,547	(97)	15,532	
Fixed income	2	5,296	139	(54)	5,381	
Other investments	2	3,529	—	(31)	3,498	
Trust securities		\$97,387	\$4,545	\$(2,589)	\$99,343	
Accrued investment income		\$819			\$819	
Preneed funeral trust investments					\$100,162	
Market value as a percentage of cost					102.0	%
The estimated maturities of the fixed income securities included above are as follows (in thousands):						
Due in one year or less					\$562	
Due in one to five years					5,415	
Due in five to ten years					6,476	
Thereafter					34,091	
Total					\$46,544	

Table of Contents

The cost and fair market values associated with preneed funeral trust investments at December 31, 2014 are detailed below (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$17,501	\$—	\$—	\$17,501	
Fixed income securities:						
U.S. treasury debt	1	2,037	32	(15	) 2,054	
U.S. agency obligations	2	30	—	—	30	
Foreign debt	2	4,653	—	(188	) 4,465	
Corporate debt	2	24,761	469	(1,718	) 23,512	
Preferred stock	2	16,166	256	(261	) 16,161	
Mortgage backed securities	2	309	8	(3	) 314	
Common stock	1	10,544	1,926	(783	) 11,687	
Mutual funds:						
Equity	1	14,126	1,370	(181	) 15,315	
Fixed income	2	5,351	115	(72	) 5,394	
Other investments	2	3,560	—	(29	) 3,531	
Trust securities		\$99,038	\$4,176	\$(3,250	) \$99,964	
Accrued investment income		\$615			\$615	
Preneed funeral trust investments					\$100,579	
Market value as a percentage of cost					100.9	%

We determine whether or not the assets in the preneed funeral trust investments have other-than-temporary impairments on a security-by-security basis. This assessment is made based upon a number of criteria including the length of time a security has been in a loss position, changes in market conditions and concerns related to the specific issuer. If a loss is considered to be other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the security is adjusted downward to its fair market value. Any reduction in the cost basis of the investment due to an other-than-temporary impairment is likewise recorded as a reduction to Deferred preneed funeral receipts held in trust on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. In the three months ended March 31, 2015, we recorded a \$0.6 million impairment for other-than-temporary declines in the fair value related to unrealized losses on certain investments. We did not have any impairments in the three months ended March 31, 2014. There will be no impact on earnings until such time that the loss is realized in the trusts, allocated to preneed contracts and the services are performed or the merchandise is delivered causing the contract to be withdrawn from the trust in accordance with state regulations.

At March 31, 2015, we had certain investments within our preneed funeral trust investments that had tax lots in loss positions for more than one year. Based on our analyses of these securities, the companies' businesses and current market conditions, we determined that these investment losses were temporary in nature.

Table of Contents

Our preneed funeral trust investment unrealized losses, their associated fair market values, and the duration of unrealized losses as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 are shown in the following tables (in thousands):

	March 31, 2015					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
U.S. debt	\$259	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$259	\$—
Municipal bonds	262	(10 )	—	—	262	(10 )
Foreign debt	2,825	(206 )	—	—	2,825	(206 )
Corporate debt	14,413	(350 )	1,946	(422 )	16,359	(772 )
Preferred stock	5,754	(184 )	3,711	(51 )	9,465	(235 )
Mortgage backed securities	—	—	45	(2 )	45	(2 )
Mutual funds:						
Equity	11,655	(1,084 )	110	(98 )	11,765	(1,182 )
Equity and other	6,576	(97 )	1,114	—	7,690	(97 )
Fixed income	2,784	(23 )	701	(31 )	3,485	(54 )
Other investments	—	—	42	(31 )	42	(31 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$44,528	\$(1,954 )	\$7,669	\$(635 )	\$52,197	\$(2,589 )
	December 31, 2014					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
U.S. debt	\$500	\$—	\$836	\$(15 )	\$1,336	\$(15 )
Foreign debt	4,471	(188 )	—	—	4,471	(188 )
Corporate debt	14,310	(617 )	1,598	(1,101 )	15,908	(1,718 )
Preferred stock	8,300	(232 )	2,597	(29 )	10,897	(261 )
Mortgage backed securities	—	—	51	(3 )	51	(3 )
Mutual funds:						
Equity	5,594	(739 )	53	(44 )	5,647	(783 )
Equity and other	4,204	(180 )	6	(1 )	4,210	(181 )
Fixed income	888	(19 )	1,026	(53 )	1,914	(72 )
Other investments	—	—	42	(29 )	42	(29 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$38,267	\$(1,975 )	\$6,209	\$(1,275 )	\$44,476	\$(3,250 )

Table of Contents

Preneed funeral trust investment security transactions recorded in Interest expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Investment income	\$645	\$556
Realized gains	494	294
Realized losses	(198	) (625
Expenses and taxes	(405	) (260
(Increase) decrease in deferred preneed funeral receipts held in trust	(536	) 35
	\$—	\$—

Purchases and sales of investments in the preneed funeral trusts were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Purchases	\$(6,990	) \$(5,489
Sales	\$7,537	\$2,302

#### 6. PRENEED CEMETERY RECEIVABLES

Preneed sales of cemetery interment rights and related products and services are usually financed through interest-bearing installment sales contracts, generally with terms of up to five years with such interest income reflected as Preneed cemetery finance charges. In substantially all cases, we receive an initial down payment at the time the contract is signed. At March 31, 2015, the balances of preneed receivables for cemetery interment rights and for merchandise and services were \$24.4 million and \$9.2 million, respectively, of which \$10.6 million is presented in Accounts receivable and \$23.0 million is presented in Preneed receivables. The unearned finance charges associated with these receivables were \$4.6 million at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

We determine an allowance for customer cancellations and refunds on contracts in which revenue has been recognized on sales of cemetery interment rights. We have a collections policy where past due notifications are sent to the customer beginning at 15 days past due and periodically thereafter until the contract is cancelled or payment is received. We reserve 100% of the receivables on contracts in which the revenue has been recognized and payments are 90 days past due or more, which was approximately 4.9% of the total receivables on recognized sales at March 31, 2015. An allowance is recorded at the date that the contract is executed and periodically adjusted thereafter based upon actual collection experience at the business level. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the change in the allowance for contract cancellations was as follows (in thousands):

	March 31, 2015
Beginning balance	\$2,140
Write-offs and cancellations	(603
Provision	116
Ending balance	\$1,653

The aging of past due financing receivables as of March 31, 2015 was as follows (in thousands):

	31-60 Past Due	61-90 Past Due	91-120 Past Due	>120 Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Financing Receivables
Recognized revenue	\$791	\$271	\$193	\$1,000	\$2,255	\$21,937	\$24,192
Deferred revenue	304	193	87	418	1,002	8,394	9,396
Total contracts	\$1,095	\$464	\$280	\$1,418	\$3,257	\$30,331	\$33,588

Table of Contents

The aging of past due financing receivables as of December 31, 2014 was as follows (in thousands):

	31-60 Past Due	61-90 Past Due	91-120 Past Due	>120 Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Financing Receivables
Recognized revenue	\$756	\$407	\$250	\$1,439	\$2,852	\$21,394	\$24,246
Deferred revenue	296	204	116	720	1,336	8,333	9,669
Total contracts	\$1,052	\$611	\$366	\$2,159	\$4,188	\$29,727	\$33,915

**7. RECEIVABLES FROM PRENEED TRUSTS**

The receivables from preneed trusts represent assets in trusts which are controlled and operated by third parties in which we do not have a controlling financial interest (less than 50%) in the trust assets. We account for these investments at cost. As of December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015, receivables from preneed trusts were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Preneed trust funds, at cost	\$13,205	\$13,191
Less: allowance for contract cancellation	(396)	(396)
Receivables from preneed trusts, net	\$12,809	\$12,795

The following summary reflects the composition of the assets held in trust and controlled by third parties to satisfy our future obligations under preneed arrangements related to the preceding contracts at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015. The cost basis includes reinvested interest and dividends that have been earned on the trust assets. Fair value includes the unrealized gains and losses on trust assets.

	Historical Cost Basis (in thousands)	Fair Value
As of December 31, 2014		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,834	\$2,834
Fixed income investments	7,880	7,893
Mutual funds and common stocks	2,467	2,586
Annuities	24	24
Total	\$13,205	\$13,337

	Historical Cost Basis (in thousands)	Fair Value
As of March 31, 2015		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,773	\$2,773
Fixed income investments	7,939	7,989
Mutual funds and common stocks	2,463	2,559
Annuities	16	16
Total	\$13,191	\$13,337

**8. CONTRACTS SECURED BY INSURANCE**

Certain preneed funeral contracts are secured by life insurance contracts. Generally, the proceeds of the life insurance policies have been assigned to us and will be paid upon the death of the insured. The proceeds will be used to satisfy the beneficiary's obligations under the preneed contract for services and merchandise. Preneed funeral contracts secured by insurance totaled \$313.0 million and \$317.3 million at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015, respectively, and are not included on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.





Table of Contents

## 9. CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE TRUST INVESTMENTS

Care trusts' corpus on our Consolidated Balance Sheets represent the corpus of those trusts plus undistributed income. The components of Care trusts' corpus as of December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Trust assets, at fair value	\$48,670	\$49,249
Obligations due from trust	(528)	(65)
Care trusts' corpus	\$48,142	\$49,184

We are required by various state laws to pay a portion of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery property interment rights into perpetual care trust funds. The income earned from these perpetual care trusts offsets maintenance expenses for cemetery property and memorials. This trust fund income is recognized, as earned, in Cemetery revenues. Trust management fees charged by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor, CSV RIA, are included in revenue in the period in which they are earned.

Where quoted prices are available in an active market, investments held by the trusts are classified as Level 1 investments pursuant to the three-level valuation hierarchy. Our Level 1 investments include cash and common stock. Where quoted market prices are not available for the specific security, then fair values are estimated by using quoted prices of similar securities in active markets or other inputs other than quoted prices that can corroborate observable market data. These investments are municipal bonds, foreign debt, corporate debt and preferred stocks, all of which are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. We review and update our fair value hierarchy classifications quarterly. There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 in the three months ended March 31, 2015. There are no Level 3 investments in the cemetery perpetual care trust investment portfolio. See Note 10 for further information of the fair value measurement and the three-level valuation hierarchy.

The following table reflects the cost and fair market values associated with the trust investments held in perpetual care trust funds at March 31, 2015 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$197	\$—	\$—	\$197	
Fixed income securities:						
Municipal bonds	2	230	—	(8)	222	
Foreign debt	2	4,012	48	(174)	3,886	
Corporate debt	2	19,530	337	(654)	19,213	
Preferred stock	2	12,539	234	(198)	12,575	
Common stock	1	11,978	1,492	(1,001)	12,469	
Trust securities		\$48,486	\$2,111	\$(2,035)	\$48,562	
Accrued investment income		\$687			\$687	
Cemetery perpetual care trust investments					\$49,249	
Market value as a percentage of cost					100.2	%

The estimated maturities of the fixed income securities included above are as follows (in thousands):

Due in one year or less	\$12
Due in one to five years	3,990
Due in five to ten years	4,732
Thereafter	27,162
	\$35,896

Table of Contents

The following table reflects the cost and fair market values associated with the trust investments held in perpetual care trust funds at December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value
Cash and money market accounts	1	\$3,206	\$—	\$—	\$3,206
Fixed income securities:					
Municipal bonds	2	229	5	—	234
Foreign debt	2	3,871	—	(156)	3,715
Corporate debt	2	19,911	248	(1,428)	18,731
Preferred stock	2	12,694	137	(214)	12,617
Common stock	1	8,747	1,568	(653)	9,662
Trust securities		\$48,658	\$1,958	\$(2,451)	\$48,165
Accrued investment income		\$505			\$505
Cemetery perpetual care investments					\$48,670
Fair market value as a percentage of cost					99.0 %

We determine whether or not the assets in the cemetery perpetual care trusts have an other-than-temporary impairment on a security-by-security basis. This assessment is made based upon a number of criteria including the length of time a security has been in a loss position, changes in market conditions and concerns related to the specific issuer. If a loss is considered to be other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the security is adjusted downward to its fair market value. Any reduction in the cost basis due to an other-than-temporary impairment is also recorded as a reduction to Care trusts' corpus. In the three months ended March 31, 2015, we recorded a \$0.5 million impairment for other-than-temporary declines in the fair value related to unrealized losses on certain investments. We did not record any impairments in the three months ended March 31, 2014. At March 31, 2015, we had certain investments within our perpetual care trust investments that had tax lots in loss positions for more than one year. Based on our analyses of these securities, the companies' businesses and current market conditions, we determined that these investment losses were temporary in nature.

Table of Contents

Our perpetual care trust investment unrealized losses, their associated fair market values, and the duration of unrealized losses for the periods ended March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 are shown in the following tables (in thousands):

	March 31, 2015					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
Municipal bonds	\$222	\$(8 )	\$—	\$—	\$222	\$(8 )
Foreign debt	2,382	(174 )	—	—	2,382	(174 )
Corporate debt	12,214	(297 )	1,648	(357 )	13,862	(654 )
Preferred stock	4,865	(156 )	3,137	(42 )	8,002	(198 )
Common stock	9,865	(918 )	94	(83 )	9,959	(1,001 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$29,548	\$(1,553 )	\$4,879	\$(482 )	\$34,427	\$(2,035 )

	December 31, 2014					
	In Loss Position Less than 12 months		In Loss Position Greater than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed income securities:						
Foreign debt	\$3,716	\$(156 )	\$—	\$—	\$3,716	\$(156 )
Corporate debt	11,893	(513 )	1,328	(915 )	13,221	(1,428 )
Preferred stock	6,821	(191 )	2,133	(23 )	8,954	(214 )
Common stock	4,663	(616 )	44	(37 )	4,707	(653 )
Total temporary impaired securities	\$27,093	\$(1,476 )	\$3,505	\$(975 )	\$30,598	\$(2,451 )

Perpetual care trust investment security transactions recorded in Interest expense on our Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Realized gains	\$417	\$190
Realized losses	(149 )	(425 )
(Increase) decrease in care trusts' corpus	(268 )	235
Total	\$—	\$—

Perpetual care trust investment security transactions recorded in Cemetery revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Investment income	\$1,281	\$1,168
Realized loss, net	(242 )	(91 )
Total	\$1,039	\$1,077

Purchases and sales of investments in the perpetual care trusts were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Purchases	\$(4,935 )	\$(4,634 )
Sales	\$5,181	\$1,822



Table of Contents**10. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received from the sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date applicable for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. We disclose the extent to which fair value is used to measure financial assets and liabilities, the inputs utilized in calculating valuation measurements, and the effect of the measurement of significant unobservable inputs on earnings, or changes in net assets, as of the measurement date.

We evaluated our financial assets and liabilities for those financial assets and liabilities that met the criteria of the disclosure requirements and fair value framework. The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables and trade payables approximate the fair values of those instruments due to the short-term nature of the instruments. The fair values of receivables on preneed funeral and cemetery contracts are impracticable to estimate because of the lack of a trading market and the diverse number of individual contracts with varying terms. Our long-term debt and Credit Facility (as defined in Note 12) are classified within Level 2 of the Fair Value Measurement hierarchy. The fair values of our long-term debt and Credit Facility approximate the carrying values of these instruments based on the index yields of similar securities compared to U.S. Treasury yield curves. The fair value of the convertible subordinated notes due 2021 was approximately \$172.3 million at March 31, 2015 based on the last traded or broker quoted price. We identified investments in fixed income securities, common stock and mutual funds presented within the preneed and perpetual care trust investment categories on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as having met the criteria for fair value measurement. See Notes 5 and 9 to our Consolidated Financial Statements herein for the fair value hierarchy levels of our trust investments.

The following three-level valuation hierarchy based upon the transparency of inputs is utilized in the measurement and valuation of financial assets or liabilities as of the measurement date:

Level 1 – Fair value of securities based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Our investments classified as Level 1 securities include cash, common stock, U.S. treasury debt and equity mutual funds.

Level 2 – Fair value of securities estimated based on quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted market prices that are observable or that can be corroborated by observable market data by correlation. These inputs include interest rates, yield curves, credit risk, prepayment speeds, rating and tax-exempt status. Our investments classified as Level 2 securities include U.S. agency obligations, municipal bonds, corporate debt, preferred stocks, foreign debt, mortgage backed securities, fixed income mutual funds and other investments.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs based upon the reporting entity's internally developed assumptions, which market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. As of March 31, 2015, we did not have any assets that had fair values determined by Level 3 inputs and no liabilities measured at fair value.

We account for our investments as available-for-sale and measure them at fair value under the standards of financial accounting and reporting for investments in equity instruments that have readily determinable fair values and for all investments in debt securities.

**11. DEFERRED CHARGES AND OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

Deferred charges and other non-current assets at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Prepaid agreements not-to-compete, net of accumulated amortization of \$5,105 and \$5,174, respectively	\$1,159	\$1,127
Deferred loan costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$2,809 and \$2,917, respectively	1,870	1,775
Convertible subordinated notes issuance costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$375 and \$493, respectively	3,252	3,134

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Tradenames	7,660	8,856
Other	323	244
Deferred charges and other non-current assets	\$14,264	\$15,136

Prepaid agreements not-to-compete are amortized over the term of the respective agreements, ranging generally from one to ten years. Amortization expense was approximately \$140,000 and \$69,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Deferred loan costs are being amortized over the term of the related debt using the effective interest method. Debt issuance costs related to our convertible subordinated notes are being amortized using the effective interest method over

- 24 -

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Table of Contents

the seven-year term of the notes. See Note 13 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein for further discussion related to our convertible subordinated notes. Our tradenames have indefinite lives and therefore are not amortized. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we increased tradenames by approximately \$1.2 million related to our acquisition of a funeral home business in February 2015.

**12. LONG-TERM DEBT**

Our long-term debt consisted of the following at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Revolving credit facility, secured, floating rate	\$40,500	\$41,000
Term loan, secured, floating rate	120,312	117,969
Acquisition debt	1,205	5,417
Less: current portion	(9,630)	(10,414)
Total long-term debt	\$152,387	\$153,972

As of March 31, 2015, we had a \$325 million secured bank credit facility (the "Credit Facility") with Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent comprised of a \$200 million revolving credit facility and a \$125 million term loan. The Credit Facility also contains an accordion provision to borrow up to an additional \$50 million in revolving loans, subject to certain conditions. The Credit Facility matures on March 31, 2019 and is collateralized by all personal property and funeral home real property in certain states. As of March 31, 2015, we had outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility of \$41.0 million and approximately \$118.0 million was outstanding on the term loan. No letters of credit were issued and outstanding under the Credit Facility at March 31, 2015. Under the Credit Facility, outstanding borrowings bear interest at either a prime rate or a LIBOR rate, plus an applicable margin based upon the Company's leverage ratio. At March 31, 2015, the prime rate margin was equivalent to 1.50% and the LIBOR margin was 2.50%. The weighted average interest rate on the Credit Facility for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was 2.7%. Borrowings under the term loan facility are subject to installment payments of 7.5% of the principal amount in the first two years following the effective date, 10.0% of the principal amount for the third and fourth years following the effective date and 12.5% of the principal amount per year thereafter, with the remaining balance payable upon maturity on March 31, 2019. Installment payments are made quarterly.

We have no material assets or operations independent of our subsidiaries. All assets and operations are held and conducted by our subsidiaries, each of which have fully and unconditionally guaranteed our obligations under the Credit Facility. Additionally, we do not currently have any significant restrictions on our ability to receive dividends or loans from any subsidiary guarantor under the Credit Facility.

We were in compliance with the covenants contained in the Credit Facility as of March 31, 2015. The Credit Facility contains key ratios that we must comply with including a requirement to maintain a leverage ratio of no more than 3.50 to 1.00 and a covenant to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of no less than 1.20 to 1.00. As of March 31, 2015, the leverage ratio was 2.46 to 1.00 and the fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.15 to 1.00.

Acquisition debt consists of deferred purchase price and promissory notes payable to sellers. The increase in acquisition debt of \$4.2 million from December 31, 2014 was due primarily to the deferred payments related to the funeral home acquisition in February 2015. Refer to Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements herein for further discussion concerning this acquisition. A majority of the notes bear interest ranging from 7.0% to 11.0%. A few notes bear interest at 0% and are discounted at imputed interest rates ranging from 8.5% to 11.0%. Original maturities range from five to twenty years.

**13. CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES**

On March 19, 2014, we issued \$143.75 million aggregate principal amount of 2.75% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2021 (the "Notes"). The Notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and were offered only to "qualified institutional buyers" in compliance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act. The Notes are governed by an indenture dated as of March 19, 2014 between Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Trustee, and us (the "Indenture"). The Notes bear interest at 2.75%. Interest on the Notes began to accrue on March 19, 2014 and is payable semi-annually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 of each year.

The Notes are general unsecured obligations and are subordinated in the right of payment to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness and equal in right of payment with our other existing and future subordinated indebtedness.



The initial conversion rate of the Notes is 44.3169 shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes, equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$22.56 per share of common stock. The conversion rate is subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events, as described in the Indenture.

- 25 -

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Table of Contents

The Notes mature on March 15, 2021, unless earlier converted or purchased by us. The conversion option of the Notes is not an embedded derivative. Holders of the Notes may convert their Notes at their option at any time prior to December 15, 2020 if certain conditions are met. We may not redeem the Notes prior to maturity. However, in the event of a fundamental change (as defined in the Indenture), subject to certain conditions, a holder of the Notes will have the option to require us to purchase all or a portion of its Notes for cash. The fundamental change purchase price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be purchased, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the fundamental change purchase date.

We have recorded the issuance of the Notes per the guidance provided under ASC 470, Topic 20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options, which requires that we separate the Notes into a liability component and an equity component. The carrying amount of the liability is calculated by measuring the fair value of a similar liability that does not have an associated equity component. The carrying amount of the liability component was determined based on a bond discount rate of 6.75% per year. The carrying amount of the equity component representing the embedded conversion option was determined by deducting the fair value of the liability component from the initial proceeds of the Notes and is recorded in Additional Paid in Capital ("APIC") on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The excess of the principal amount of the liability over its carrying amount is amortized to interest expense using the effective interest method. The expected life of the liability component will not be reassessed in subsequent periods unless the terms are modified.

We received gross proceeds of \$143.75 million and incurred total transaction costs of approximately \$4.7 million, of which \$4.4 million was paid in the three months ended March 31, 2014. We used a portion of the proceeds to repay our outstanding balance on our revolving credit facility and to redeem our existing convertible junior subordinated debentures.

Total transaction costs of \$4.7 million were allocated to the liability and equity components in proportion to the allocation of the initial proceeds and accounted for as debt issuance costs and equity issuance costs, respectively. Debt issuance costs are included in Deferred charges and other non-current assets on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and are being amortized using the effective interest method over the seven-year term of the Notes. Equity issuance costs are included in APIC on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and are not amortized. Additionally, the recognition of the Notes as two separate components results in a tax basis difference associated with the liability component which represents a temporary tax difference. As a result, we recognized a deferred tax liability of \$12.7 million related to this temporary difference which was recorded as a reduction to APIC and an increase to our deferred tax liability. The deferred tax liability is being amortized over the remaining term.

The carrying values of the liability and equity components of the Notes at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 are reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheets as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014	March 31, 2015
Long-term liabilities:		
Principal amount	\$ 143,750	\$ 143,750
Unamortized discount of liability component	(29,208	) (28,381
Carrying value of the liability component	\$ 114,542	\$ 115,369
Equity component carrying value	\$ 17,973	\$ 17,973

The fair value of the Notes, which are Level 2 measurements, was approximately \$172.3 million at March 31, 2015. Interest expense on the Notes for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 included contractual coupon interest expense of \$0.1 million and \$1.0 million, respectively, and amortization of debt issuance costs of approximately \$44,000 and \$0.1 million, respectively. Accretion of the discount on the convertible subordinated notes was \$0.2 million and \$0.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively. The unamortized discount is being amortized over the remaining term. The effective interest rate on the liability component for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 was 6.75%.

## 14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

## Litigation

We are a party to various litigation matters and proceedings. For each of our outstanding legal matters, we evaluate the merits of the case, our exposure to the matter, possible legal or settlement strategies, and the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome. We intend to defend ourselves in the lawsuits described herein. If we determine that an unfavorable outcome is probable and can be reasonably estimated, we establish the necessary accruals. We hold certain insurance policies that may reduce cash outflows with respect to an adverse outcome of certain of these litigation matters.

- 26 -

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Table of Contents

Leathermon, et al. v. Grandview Memorial Gardens, Inc., et al., United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Case No. 4:07-cv-137. On August 17, 2007, five plaintiffs filed a putative class action against the current and past owners of Grandview Cemetery in Madison, Indiana, including our subsidiaries that owned the cemetery from January 1997 until February 2001, on behalf of all individuals who purchased cemetery and burial goods and services at Grandview Cemetery. Plaintiffs are seeking monetary damages and claim that the cemetery owners performed burials negligently, breached Plaintiffs' contracts and made misrepresentations regarding the cemetery. The Plaintiffs also allege that the claims occurred prior, during and after we owned the cemetery. On October 15, 2007, the case was removed from Jefferson County Circuit Court, Indiana to the Southern District of Indiana. On April 24, 2009, shortly before the Defendants had been scheduled to file their briefs in opposition to Plaintiffs' motion for class certification, Plaintiffs moved to amend their complaint to add new class representatives and claims, while also seeking to abandon other claims. We, as well as several other Defendants, opposed Plaintiffs' motion to amend their complaint and add parties. In April 2009, two Defendants moved to disqualify Plaintiffs' counsel from further representing Plaintiffs in this action. On June 30, 2010, the court granted Defendants' motion to disqualify Plaintiffs' counsel. On May 6, 2010, Plaintiffs filed a petition for writ of mandamus with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals seeking relief from the trial court's order of disqualification of counsel. On May 19, 2010, the Defendants responded to the petition of mandamus. On July 8, 2010, the Seventh Circuit denied Plaintiffs' petition for writ of mandamus. Thus, pursuant to the trial court's order, Plaintiffs were given 60 days from July 8, 2010 in which to retain new counsel to prosecute this action on their behalf. Plaintiffs retained new counsel and Plaintiffs' counsel moved for leave to amend both the class representatives and the allegations stated within the complaint. Defendants filed oppositions to such amendments. The court issued an order permitting the Plaintiffs to proceed with amending the class representatives and a portion of their claims; however, certain of Plaintiffs' claims have been dismissed. The parties reached a proposed class settlement, and the court granted its preliminary approval of such settlement by order dated March 19, 2014. Notice of the class settlement was provided pursuant to the Preliminary Order Approving Class Action Settlement, and no settlement class members opted out of the class nor objected to the terms of the settlement. The court issued its final approval of the settlement on June 23, 2014. The parties are administering the settlement in accordance with its terms.

**15. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY****Stock Options**

As of March 31, 2015, there were 1,985,755 stock options outstanding and 1,441,473 stock options which remain unvested. On February 24, 2015, we granted 628,000 options to certain employees at an option price of \$22.58. These options will vest in one-third increments over a three-year period and have a seven-year term. On March 25, 2015, we granted 25,000 options to a new employee at an option price of \$24.74. These options will vest in one-third increments over a three-year period and have a seven-year term. The value of all stock options granted in the three months ended March 31, 2015 is approximately \$3.7 million.

The fair value of the option grants were estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

	February 24, 2015	March 25, 2015		
Dividend yield	0.44	%	0.40	%
Expected volatility	32.62	%	32.35	%
Risk-free interest rate	1.13	%	1.11	%
Expected life (years)	3.6		3.7	
Black-Scholes value	\$5.64		\$6.22	

We recorded pre-tax stock-based compensation expense for stock options totaling approximately \$0.3 million and \$0.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively. The increase in expense for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was due to a larger number of stock option grants in the first quarter of 2015 at a higher option price compared to the option grants made in the first quarter of 2014.

**Employee Stock Purchase Plan**

During the first quarter of 2015, employees purchased a total of 12,408 shares of common stock through the employee stock purchase plan ("ESPP") at a weighted average price of \$17.14 per share. We recorded pre-tax stock-based

compensation expense for the ESPP totaling approximately \$116,000 and \$73,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

- 27 -

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Table of Contents

The fair value of the right (option) to purchase shares under the ESPP is estimated on the date of grant (January 1 of each year) associated with the four quarterly purchase dates using the following assumptions:

	2015	
Dividend yield	0.4	%
Expected volatility	24.35	%
Risk-free interest rate	0.02%, 0.11%, 0.18%, 0.25%	
Expected life (years)	0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00	

Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility during the previous twelve months of the underlying common stock. The risk-free rate for the quarterly purchase periods is based on the U.S. Treasury yields in effect at the time of the purchase. The expected life of the ESPP grants represents the calendar quarters from the beginning of the year to the purchase date (end of each quarter).

**Restricted Stock Grants**

From time to time, we issue shares of restricted common stock to certain officers and key employees of the Company from our stock benefit plans. The restricted stock shares issued to officers and key employees vest in either one-quarter or one-third increments over four or three-year terms, respectively. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we issued a total of 37,900 restricted stock grants that vest over a three-year period with an aggregate grant date market value of approximately \$0.9 million.

Related to the vesting of restricted stock awards awarded to our officers and key employees, we recorded \$0.3 million and \$0.4 million of pre-tax compensation expense, which is included in general, administrative and other expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

As of March 31, 2015, we had approximately \$4.7 million of total unrecognized compensation costs related to unvested restricted stock awards, which are expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.7 years.

**Director Compensation Policy**

We compensate our directors through cash payments, including retainers and meeting attendance fees, and through stock-based awards. Our Director Compensation Policy provides for the following cash payments, including retainers and meeting attendance fees:

	Annual Cash Retainer		Per Meeting Cash Fee <sup>(2)</sup>
Board - Independent Director	\$ 40,000	(1)	\$2,000
Board - Lead Director	\$ 115,000	(1) (3)	\$2,000
Audit Committee			
Chair	\$ 17,500	(4)	\$2,000
Member	\$ —		\$2,000
Compensation Committee			
Chair	\$ 15,000	(4)	\$1,600
Member	\$ —		\$1,600
Corporate Governance Committee			
Chair	\$ 15,000	(4)	\$1,600
Member	\$ —		\$1,600

(1) Paid on a quarterly basis. No cash retainers are paid to employee directors.

(2) Paid for attendance at any special or regular meeting of the Board or Committee, whether attended in person or by phone. No Per Meeting Cash Fees are paid to employee directors.

(3) The Lead Director receives this annual retainer in addition to the retainer paid to other Independent Directors.

(4) Paid on the date of our Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Our Director Compensation Policy provides that any new independent director will receive, upon appointment or election to our Board, a grant of \$100,000 in shares of our Common Stock. Following their initial appointment or election to our Board, each independent director of our Board is entitled to an annual equity retainer of \$75,000

payable in shares of Common Stock,

- 28 -

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Table of Contents

paid on the date of our Annual Meeting of Stockholders which will be held on May 19, 2015. Common Stock grants to our independent directors are issued under our Second Amended and Restated 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan. We recorded \$0.2 million and \$0.1 million of pre-tax compensation expense, which is included in general, administrative and other expenses, for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively, related to the director fees and annual retainers.

**Cash Dividends**

During the three months ended March 31, 2015, our Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.025 per share, totaling approximately \$0.5 million, which was paid on March 2, 2015 to record holders of our common stock as of February 13, 2015. We have a dividend reinvestment program so that stockholders may elect to reinvest their dividends into additional shares of our common stock.

**Accumulated other comprehensive income**

Our components of Accumulated other comprehensive income are as follows:

	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$—
Increase in net unrealized gains associated with available-for-sale securities of the trusts	2,132
Reclassification of net unrealized gain activity attributable to the Deferred preneed funeral and cemetery receipts held in trust and Care trusts' corpus	(2,132 )
Balance at March 31, 2015	\$—

**16. MAJOR SEGMENTS OF BUSINESS**

We conduct funeral and cemetery operations only in the United States. The following table presents revenue from continuing operations, pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations and total assets by segment (in thousands):

	Funeral	Cemetery	Corporate	Consolidated
Revenues from continuing operations:				
Three months ended March 31, 2015	\$50,137	\$13,116	\$—	\$63,253
Three months ended March 31, 2014	\$43,964	\$11,688	\$—	\$55,652
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes:				
Three months ended March 31, 2015	\$17,798	\$4,046	\$(10,821 )	\$11,023
Three months ended March 31, 2014	\$14,323	\$3,303	\$(14,952 )	\$2,674
Total assets:				
March 31, 2015	\$579,551	\$241,452	\$14,232	\$835,235
December 31, 2014	\$568,842	\$240,009	\$18,677	\$827,528



Table of Contents

## 17. SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS INFORMATION

The following information is supplemental disclosure for the Consolidated Statements of Operations (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Revenues		
Goods		
Funeral	\$17,327	\$19,145
Cemetery	7,115	8,180
Total goods	\$24,442	\$27,325
Services		
Funeral	\$24,157	\$28,439
Cemetery	2,652	2,910
Total services	\$26,809	\$31,349
Financial revenue		
Preneed funeral commission income	\$564	\$355
Preneed funeral trust earnings	1,916	2,198
Cemetery trust earnings	1,584	1,641
Cemetery finance charges	337	385
Total financial revenue	\$4,401	\$4,579
Total revenues	\$55,652	\$63,253
Cost of revenues		
Goods		
Funeral	\$13,776	\$14,850
Cemetery	5,213	5,508
Total goods	\$18,989	\$20,358
Services		
Funeral	\$11,853	\$13,283
Cemetery	1,724	1,732
Total services	\$13,577	\$15,015
Financial expenses		
Preneed funeral commissions	\$247	\$264
Trust administration fees	30	80
Total financial expenses	\$277	\$344
Total cost of revenues	\$32,843	\$35,717

The costs of revenues, for purposes of this supplemental disclosure, include only field costs and expenses that are directly allocable between the goods, services and financial categories in the funeral and cemetery segments.

Depreciation and amortization and regional and unallocated funeral and cemetery costs are not included in this disclosure.

Table of Contents

## 18. SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION

The following information is supplemental disclosure for the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (in thousands):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Cash paid for interest	\$2,801	\$3,211
Cash paid (refunded) for income taxes	296	(10 )
Fair value of stock, stock options and performance awards issued to directors, officers and certain employees	8,002	4,554
Restricted common stock and options withheld for payroll taxes	1,079	1,364
Net (deposits) withdrawals into / from preneed funeral trusts	(3,060	) 367
Net deposits into preneed cemetery trusts	(1,134	) (562 )
Net deposits into perpetual care trusts	(493	) (579 )
Net decrease (increase) in preneed receivables	271	(147 )
Net (deposits) withdrawals of receivables into / from preneed trusts	(571	) 14
Net change in preneed funeral receivables increasing (decreasing) deferred revenue	513	(78 )
Net change in preneed cemetery receivables decreasing deferred revenue	(550	) (4 )
Net deposits (withdrawals) into / from preneed funeral trust accounts increasing deferred preneed funeral receipts held in trust	3,060	(367 )
Net deposits into cemetery trust accounts increasing deferred cemetery receipts held in trust	1,134	562
Net deposits into perpetual care trust accounts increasing perpetual care trusts' corpus	1,014	1,042

Table of Contents

## 19. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Share-based awards that contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents, whether paid or unpaid, are participating securities and included in the computation of both basic and diluted earnings per share. Our grants of restricted stock awards to our employees and directors are considered participating securities and we have prepared our earnings per share calculations to exclude outstanding unvested restricted stock awards, using the two-class method, in the basic and diluted weighted average shares outstanding calculation.

The following table sets forth the computation of the basic and diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings per share:		
Numerator from continuing operations		
Income from continuing operations	\$ 1,631	\$ 6,418
Less: Earnings allocated to unvested restricted stock	(37	) (100
Income attributable to continuing operations	\$ 1,594	\$ 6,318
Numerator from discontinued operations		
Income from discontinued operations	\$ 587	\$ —
Less: Earnings allocated to unvested restricted stock	(13	) —
Income attributable to discontinued operations	\$ 574	\$ —
Denominator		
Denominator for basic earnings per common share - weighted average shares outstanding		
	17,984	18,208
Effect of dilutive securities:		
Stock options	159	248
Convertible subordinated notes	—	348
Denominator for diluted earnings per common share - weighted average shares outstanding	18,143	18,804
Basic earnings per common share:		
Continuing operations	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.35
Discontinued operations	0.03	—
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.35
Diluted earnings per common share:		
Continuing operations	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.34
Discontinued operations	0.03	—
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.34

The fully diluted weighted average shares outstanding for the three months ended March 31, 2015, and the corresponding calculation of fully diluted earnings per share, include approximately 0.3 million shares that would have been issued upon the conversion of our convertible subordinated notes as a result of the application of the if-converted method prescribed by the FASB ASC 260.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, 25,000 options were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share because the inclusion of such options would result in an antidilutive effect. There were no options excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2014.



Table of Contents

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

In addition to historical information, this Form 10-Q contains certain statements and information that may constitute forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include statements regarding any projections of earnings, revenues, asset sales, cash flow, debt levels or other financial items; any statements of the plans, strategies and objectives of management for future operations; any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance; any statements of belief; and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing and are based on our current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect on us. The words “may”, “will”, “estimate”, “intend”, “believe”, “expect”, “project”, “forecast”, “foresee”, “should”, “would”, “could”, “plan”, “anticipate” and other similar words or expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, which are generally not historical in nature. While management believes that these forward-looking statements are reasonable as and when made, there can be no assurance that future developments affecting us will be those that we anticipate. All comments concerning our expectations for future revenues and operating results are based on our forecasts for our existing operations and do not include the potential impact of any future acquisitions. Our forward-looking statements involve significant risks and uncertainties (some of which are beyond our control) and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from our historical experience and our present expectations or projections. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those summarized below:

- the execution of our Standards Operating, 4E Leadership and Strategic Acquisition Models;
- changes in the number of deaths in our markets;
- changes in consumer preferences;
- ability to find and retain skilled personnel;
- the effects of competition;
- the investment performance of our funeral and cemetery trust funds;
- fluctuations in interest rates;
- our ability to obtain debt or equity financing on satisfactory terms to fund additional acquisitions, expansion projects, working capital requirements and the repayment or refinancing of indebtedness;
- death benefits related to preneed funeral contracts funded through life insurance contracts;
- our ability to generate preneed sales;
- the financial condition of third-party insurance companies that fund our preneed funeral contracts;
- increased or unanticipated costs, such as insurance or taxes;
- effects of the application of applicable laws and regulations, including changes in such regulations or the interpretation thereof;
- consolidation of the deathcare industry; and
- other factors and uncertainties inherent in the deathcare industry.

For additional information regarding known material factors that could cause our actual results to differ from our projected results, please see (i) Part II, Item 1A “Risk Factors” in this Form 10-Q and (ii) Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements after the date they are made, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

OVERVIEW

General

We operate in two business segments: funeral home operations, which currently account for approximately 77% of our revenues, and cemetery operations, which account for approximately 23% of our revenues. Funeral homes are principally service businesses that provide funeral services (traditional burial and cremation) and sell related merchandise, such as caskets and urns. Cemeteries are primarily sales businesses that sell interment rights (grave sites and mausoleum spaces) and related merchandise, such as markers and outer burial containers. At March 31, 2015, we operated 165 funeral homes in 27 states and 32 cemeteries in 11 states within the United States. We mainly serve suburban and rural markets, where we primarily compete with smaller, independent operators and believe we are a market leader (first or second) in most of our markets. We provide funeral and cemetery services and products on both an "at-need" (time of death) and "preneed" (planned prior to death) basis.

Our business strategy is based on strong, local leadership and entrepreneurial principles that we believe drive market share, revenue growth, and profitability in our local markets. Carriage strives to have the most innovative and transparent operating and reporting framework in the deathcare industry. We are able to achieve such an innovative and transparent framework through a decentralized, high-performance cultural operating framework with linked incentive compensation programs that attract top-quality industry talent at all levels.

We are defined by our Mission Statement which states that "we are committed to being the most professional, ethical and highest quality funeral and cemetery service organization in our industry" and our Guiding Principles which state our core values, which are comprised of:

honesty, integrity and quality in all that we do;

hard work, pride of accomplishment and shared success through employee ownership;

belief in the power of people through individual initiative and teamwork;

outstanding service and profitability go hand-in-hand; and

growth of the Company is driven by decentralization and partnership.

Our five Guiding Principles collectively embody our "Being the Best" high-performance cultural, operating framework.

Our general operations and business strategy are built upon the execution of the following three models:

Standards Operating Model;

LE Leadership Model; and

Strategic Acquisition Model.

Standards Operating Model

Carriage's Standards Operating Model eliminated the use of financial budgets which freed up enormous amounts of time to focus and work on growing each local business de-centrally and improving the quality and skills of the staff. Instead of the budget and control model, Carriage's Standards Operating Model and the underlying standards which we refer to as "Being the Best," focus on market share, people, and operating and financial metrics that drive long-term, sustainable revenue growth and earning power of our portfolio of businesses by employing leadership and entrepreneurial principles that fit the nature of our local, personal service, high-value business. Standards Achievement is the measure by which we judge the success of each business. The Standards are not designed to produce maximum short-term earnings because Carriage does not believe such performance is sustainable and will ultimately stress the business, which very often leads to declining market share, revenues and earnings. Important elements of the Standards Operating Model include:

Balanced Operating Model – We believe a decentralized structure works best in the deathcare industry. Successful execution of the Standards Operating Model is highly dependent on strong local leadership, intelligent risk taking, entrepreneurial drive and corporate support aligned with the key drivers of a successful operation organized around three primary areas – market share, people and operating financial metrics.

Incentives Aligned with Standards – Empowering Managing Partners to do the right things in their operations and local communities, and providing appropriate support with operating and financial practices, will enable long-term growth

and sustainable profitability. Each Managing Partner participates in a variable bonus plan whereby he or she earns a percentage of his or her respective business' earnings based upon the actual standards achieved as long as the performance exceeds our minimum standards.

- 34 -

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## Table of Contents

The Right Local Leadership – Successful execution of our operating model is highly dependent on strong local leadership as defined by our 4E Leadership Model, intelligent risk taking and entrepreneurial empowerment. A Managing Partner’s performance is judged according to achievement of the standards for that business.

### 4E Leadership Model

Our 4E Leadership Model requires strong local leadership in each business to grow an entrepreneurial, decentralized, high-value, personal service and sales business at sustainable profit margins. Carriage’s 4E Leadership Model is based upon principles established by Jack Welch during his tenure at General Electric, and is based upon 4E qualities essential to succeed in a high-performance culture: Energy to get the job done; the ability to Energize others; the Edge necessary to make difficult decisions; and the ability to Execute and produce results. To achieve a high level of Standards in a business year after year, we require “A Players” in charge that have the 4E Leadership skills to entrepreneurially grow the business by hiring, training and developing highly motivated and productive teams locally that produce results.

In 2012, we began a five-year incentive plan, called “Good to Great,” which rewards the Managing Partners with a bonus at the end of five years, equal to four to six times their average annual bonus, if such Managing Partners are able to achieve an annual compound growth rate of 2% over a five-year period.

### Strategic Acquisition Model

Our Standards Operating Model led to the development of our “Strategic Acquisition Model” during 2006, which guides our acquisition and disposition strategies. Both models, when executed effectively, will drive long-term, sustainable increases in market share, revenue and earnings. We believe a primary driver of higher revenue and profits in the future will be the execution of our Strategic Acquisition Model using strategic ranking criteria to assess acquisition and divestiture candidates. As we execute this strategy over time, we will acquire larger, higher margin strategic businesses and divest smaller businesses in non-strategic markets. All acquisition candidates will be prequalified to be able to perform under our Standards Operating Model.

We have learned that the long-term growth or decline of a local branded deathcare business is reflected by several criteria that correlate strongly with five to ten year performance in volumes (market share), revenues and sustainable field-level earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) margins. We use the following criteria, among others, to rank the strategic position of each potential acquisition:

- size of business;
- size of market;
- competitive standing;
- demographics;
- strength of brand;
- barriers to entry; and
- volume and price trends.

Our belief in our Mission Statement and Guiding Principles that define us and proper execution of the three models that define our strategy have given us the competitive advantage in any market in which we compete. We believe that we can execute our three models without proportionate incremental investment in our consolidation platform infrastructure or additional fixed regional and corporate overhead. This competitive advantage is evidenced by the sustained earning power of our portfolio as defined by our EBITDA margin. Carriage’s deep understanding of each market landscape and our historical, successful competition in individual local markets more than reasonably ensures that we are promoting the interests of the consumer and supporting unfettered markets which, in turn, results in better pricing and more choices for the consumer.



Table of Contents

## Funeral Home Operations

At March 31, 2015, we operated 165 funeral homes in 27 states. Funeral home revenues currently account for approximately 77% of our total revenues. The funeral home operations are managed by a team of experienced deathcare industry professionals and selected region-level individuals with substantial management experience in our industry.

Our funeral homes offer a complete range of services to meet a family's deathcare needs, including consultation, the removal and preparation of remains, the sale of caskets and related funeral merchandise, the use of funeral home facilities for visitation and services and transportation services. Most of our funeral homes have a non-denominational chapel on the premises, which permits family visitation and services to take place at one location and thereby reduces transportation costs and inconvenience to the family.

Factors affecting our funeral operating results include: demographic trends relating to population growth and average age, which impact death rates and number of deaths; establishing and maintaining leading market share positions supported by strong local heritage and relationships; effectively responding to increasing cremation trends by selling complementary services and merchandise; controlling salary and merchandise costs; and exercising pricing leverage related to our at-need business to increase average revenue per contract. In simple terms, volume and price are the two variables that affect funeral revenues. The average revenue per contract is influenced by the mix of traditional and cremation services because our average cremation service revenue is approximately one-third of the average revenue earned from a traditional burial service. Funeral homes have a relatively fixed cost structure. Thus, small changes in revenues, up or down, normally cause significant changes to our profitability.

Our funeral volumes have increased from 24,403 in 2010 to 31,402 in 2014 (compounded annual increase of 6.5%). Our funeral operating revenue, excluding financial revenue, has increased from \$124.2 million in 2010 to \$164.2 million in 2014 (compounded annual increase of 7.2%). The increases are primarily a result of businesses we have acquired in the last five years and our ability to increase the average revenue per funeral through expanded service offerings and packages. Additional funeral revenue from preneed commissions and preneed funeral trust earnings has increased from \$8.1 million in 2010 to \$9.5 million in 2014. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to the same period of 2014 on a same store basis, we experienced a 4.6% increase in volumes while the average revenue per contract increased 1.5%. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to the same period of 2014 on acquired businesses, we experienced a 49.8% increase in volumes while the average revenue per contract remained flat. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, funeral revenue from preneed commissions and preneed funeral trust earnings was \$2.6 million compared to \$2.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014.

The percentage of funeral services involving cremations has increased from 43.2% for the year ended December 31, 2010 to 47.3% for the year ended December 31, 2014. On a same store basis, the cremation rate has risen from 42.1% in 2010 to 47.4% for the year ended December 31, 2014. The cremation rate for our acquired funeral home businesses was 67.3% for the year ended December 31, 2010 compared to 47.1% for the year ended December 31, 2014. Our acquisitions made in 2010 were in states that generally have a high cremation rate which caused the cremation rate for 2010 to be significantly higher than the cremation rate for 2014. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the cremation rate on a same store basis was 50.9% compared to 48.5% for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The cremation rate for our acquired funeral home businesses was 40.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to 36.9% for the same period of 2014.

## Cemetery Operations

As of March 31, 2015, we operated 32 cemeteries in 11 states. The cemetery operations are managed by a team of experienced deathcare industry and sales professionals.

Our cemetery products and services include interment services, the rights to interment in cemetery sites (primarily grave sites, mausoleum crypts and niches) and related cemetery merchandise, such as memorials and vaults. Cemetery operations generate revenues through sales of interment rights and memorials, installation fees, fees for interment and cremation memorialization products, finance charges from installment sales contracts and investment income from preneed cemetery merchandise trusts and perpetual care trusts.

Factors affecting our cemetery operating results include: the size and success of our sales organization; adapting to changes in the economy and consumer confidence; and responding to fluctuations in capital markets and interest rates,

which affect investment earnings on trust funds, finance charges on installment contracts and our securities portfolio within the trust funds.

Approximately 48.0% of our cemetery revenues were related to preneed sales of interment rights and related merchandise and services for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014. Cemetery revenues from investment earnings on trust funds grew from \$4.5 million in 2010 to \$8.1 million in 2014. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, cemetery

- 36 -

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Table of Contents

revenues from investment earnings on trust funds were \$1.6 million. Changes in the capital markets and interest rates affect this component of our cemetery revenues.

Our cemetery financial performance from 2010 through 2014 was characterized by varying levels of operating revenues yet increasing field-level cemetery profit margins. Cemetery operating revenue increased from \$37.8 million in 2010 to \$42.9 million in 2014 (compounded annual increase of 3.2%). Our goal is to build broader and deeper teams of sales leaders and counselors in our larger and more strategically located cemeteries in order to focus on growth of our preneed property sales. Additionally, we plan to use a portion of our capital expenditures in 2015 to expand our cemetery product offerings.

Financial Revenue

We market funeral and cemetery services and products on a preneed basis. Preneed funeral or cemetery contracts enable families to establish, in advance, the type of service to be performed, the products to be used and the cost of such products and services. Preneed contracts permit families to eliminate issues of making deathcare plans at the time of need and allow input from other family members before the death occurs. We guarantee the price and performance of the preneed contracts to the customer.

Preneed funeral contracts are usually paid on an installment basis. The performance of preneed funeral contracts is usually secured by placing the funds collected in trust for the benefit of the customer or by the purchase of a life insurance policy, the proceeds of which will pay for such services at the time of need. Insurance policies, intended to fund preneed funeral contracts, cover the original contract price and generally include an element of growth (earnings) designed to offset future inflationary cost increases. Revenue from preneed funeral contracts, along with accumulated earnings, is not recognized until the time the funeral service is performed. The accumulated earnings from the trust investments and insurance policies are intended to offset the inflation in funeral prices. Additionally, we generally earn a commission from the insurance company from the sale of insurance-funded policies reflected as Preneed Funeral Commission Income within Funeral Revenue. The commission income is recognized as revenue when the period of refund expires (generally one year), which helps us defray the costs we incur to originate the preneed contract (primarily commissions we pay to our sales counselors).

Preneed sales of cemetery interment rights are usually financed through interest-bearing installment sales contracts, generally with terms of up to five years with such earnings reflected as Preneed Cemetery Finance Charges within Cemetery Revenue. In substantially all cases, we receive an initial down payment at the time the contract is signed. In most states, regulations require a portion (generally 10%) of the sale amount of cemetery property and memorials to be placed in a perpetual care trust.

We have established a variety of trusts in connection with funeral home and cemetery operations as required under applicable state laws. Such trusts include (i) preneed funeral trusts; (ii) preneed cemetery merchandise and service trusts; and (iii) perpetual care trusts. These trusts are typically administered by independent financial institutions selected by us. Investment management and advisory services are provided either by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor (CSV RIA) or independent financial advisors. At March 31, 2015, CSV RIA provided these services to two institutions, which have custody of 76% of our trust assets, for a fee based on the market value of trust assets. Under state trust laws, CSV RIA is allowed to charge the trust a fee for advising on the investment of the trust assets and these fees are recognized as income as the advisory services are provided. The investment advisors establish an investment policy that gives guidance on asset allocation, investment requirements, investment manager selection and performance monitoring. The investment objectives are tailored to generate long-term investment returns without assuming undue risk, while ensuring the management of assets is in compliance with applicable laws. Preneed funeral trust fund income earned, along with the receipt and recognition of any insurance benefits, are deferred until the service is performed. Applicable state laws generally require us to deposit a specified amount (which varies from state to state, generally 50% to 100% of the selling price) into a merchandise and service trust fund for preneed cemetery merchandise and service sales. The related trust fund income earned is recognized when the related merchandise and services are delivered. In most states, regulations require a portion (generally 10%) of the sale amount of cemetery property to be placed in a perpetual care trust. The income from perpetual care trusts provides a portion of the funds necessary to maintain cemetery property and memorials in perpetuity. Perpetual care trust fund income is recognized, as earned, in our cemetery revenues.



Table of Contents

Acquisitions

On February 25, 2015, we acquired a funeral home business in Clarksville, Tennessee for approximately \$8.8 million. The purchase price consisted of cash of approximately \$4.3 million which was paid at closing and \$4.5 million which represents the net present value of future deferred payments totaling \$5.5 million. The deferred payments are being paid in 20 equal quarterly installment payments of approximately \$0.3 million commencing on the close date and each January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1, for the next five years. We acquired substantially all of the assets of the business.

Financial Highlights

Three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to three months ended March 31, 2015

Total revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 was \$63.3 million and \$55.7 million, respectively, an increase of 13.7%. Further discussion of revenue for our funeral home and cemetery segments is presented herein under “Results of Operations.” Net income from continuing operations for the three months ended March 31, 2015 totaled \$6.4 million, equal to \$0.34 per diluted share, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$1.6 million, equal to \$0.09 per diluted share, for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The increase in net income is attributable to better performance in our funeral home and cemetery segments due primarily to increases in acquisition contract volumes and related revenue, and better management of general and administrative expenses. Additionally, we recognized a loss on the redemption of our convertible junior subordinated debentures of approximately \$3.8 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014 that we did not incur in the three months ended March 31, 2015. In certain states, we are allowed to withdraw realized trust earnings prior to delivery from cemetery merchandise and services trusts, which management describes as “Withdrawable Trust Income.” The Withdrawable Trust Income, pre-tax, totaled \$0.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. We did not have any Withdrawable Trust Income in the three months ended March 31, 2015. While the Withdrawable Trust Income is not recognized as revenue in our Consolidated Statements of Operations, it increases cash flow from operations. The Withdrawable Trust Income is treated as a special item in our Non-GAAP net income calculation.

We also present our financial performance in our “Operating and Financial Trend Report” (“Trend Report”) as reported in our earnings release and discussed on our earnings call for the quarter ending March 31, 2015. This Trend Report is used as a supplemental financial measurement statement by management and investors to compare our current financial performance with our previous results and with the performance of other deathcare companies. The Trend Report is a Non-GAAP statement from continuing operations that also provides insight into underlying trends in our business. We do not intend for this information to be considered in isolation or as a substitute for other measures of performance prepared in accordance with GAAP.

The Non-GAAP financial measures in the Trend Report include such measures as “Adjusted Net Income,” “Adjusted Diluted Earnings Per Share,” “Consolidated EBITDA,” “Adjusted Consolidated EBITDA,” “Funeral, Cemetery and Financial EBITDA,” “Total Field EBITDA” and “Special Items.” These financial measurements are defined as similar GAAP items adjusted for Special Items and are reconciled to GAAP in our earnings release and on the Trend Reports posted on our website ([www.carrageservices.com](http://www.carrageservices.com)). In addition, our presentation of these measures may not be comparable to similarly titled measures in other companies’ reports.

We are providing below a reconciliation after tax of net income from continuing operations (a GAAP measure) to Non-GAAP net income (a non-GAAP measure). Non-GAAP net income is defined as net income from continuing operations adjusted for Special Items, including Withdrawable Trust Income, acquisition and divestiture expenses, severance costs and other items in the table below. The adjustment of Special Items in Non-GAAP income allows management to focus on the evaluation of operating performance as it primarily relates to our operating expenses. The special items are tax affected at a rate of 34% except for the accretion of the discount on the convertible subordinated notes, which is a non-tax deductible item.

Table of Contents

(In millions)	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Net income from continuing operations, as reported	\$ 1.6	\$ 6.4
After-tax Special items, except for **		
Withdrawable trust income	0.1	—
Acquisition and divestiture expenses	0.5	0.3
Severance costs	0.2	0.1
Consulting fees	0.1	0.1
Other incentive compensation	0.7	—
Accretion of discount on convertible subordinated notes**	0.2	0.8
Loss on redemption of convertible junior subordinated debentures	2.5	—
Gain on asset purchase	(0.7	) —
Other special items	0.5	0.1
Tax adjustment from prior period**	—	0.2
Adjusted (Non-GAAP) net income	\$ 5.7	\$ 8.0

**OVERVIEW OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate estimates and judgments, including those related to revenue recognition, realization of accounts receivable, inventories, goodwill, other intangible assets, property and equipment and deferred tax assets and liabilities. We base our estimates on historical experience, third-party data and assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. The results of these considerations form the basis for making judgments about the amount and timing of revenues and expenses, the carrying value of assets and the recorded amounts of liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates and such estimates may change if the underlying conditions or assumptions change. Historical performance should not be viewed as indicative of future performance because there can be no assurance the margins, operating income and net earnings, as a percentage of revenues, will be consistent from year to year.

Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations ("MD&A") is based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements presented herewith, which have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Our significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note 1 to our Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q. Our critical accounting policies are those that are both important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations and require management's most difficult, subjective and complex judgment. These critical accounting policies are discussed in MD&A in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. There have been no significant changes to our critical accounting policies since the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following is a discussion of our results of continuing operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015. The term "same store" or "existing operations" refers to funeral homes and cemeteries acquired prior to January 1, 2011 and operated for the entirety of each period being presented. Funeral homes and cemeteries purchased after December 31, 2010 are referred to as "acquired." This classification of acquisitions has been important to management and investors in monitoring the results of these businesses and to gauge the leveraging performance contribution that a selective acquisition program can have on total company performance. Depreciation and amortization and regional and unallocated funeral and cemetery costs are not included in operating profit.

Table of Contents

Funeral Home Segment. The following tables set forth certain information regarding the revenues and operating profit from our funeral home operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015.

Three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to three months ended March 31, 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Change		
	March 31, 2014	2015	Amount	%	
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Same store operating revenue	\$33,664	\$35,835	\$2,171	6.4	%
Acquired operating revenue	7,820	11,749	3,929	50.2	%
Preneed funeral insurance commissions	564	355	(209)	(37.1)	)%
Preneed funeral trust earnings	1,916	2,198	282	14.7	%
Total	\$43,964	\$50,137	\$6,173	14.0	%
<b>Operating profit:</b>					
Same store operating profit	\$12,900	\$14,556	\$1,656	12.8	%
Acquired operating profit	2,955	4,895	1,940	65.7	%
Preneed funeral insurance commissions	317	91	(226)	(71.3)	)%
Preneed funeral trust earnings	1,909	2,180	271	14.2	%
Total	\$18,081	\$21,722	\$3,641	20.1	%

Funeral home same store operating revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$2.2 million, or 6.4%, when compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014. This increase was due to a 4.6% increase in same store contract volume to 6,957 and a slight increase of 1.5% in the average revenue per same store contract to \$5,386. The average revenue per contract includes the impact of the funeral trust fund earnings recognized at the time that we provide the services pursuant to the preneed contract. Excluding funeral trust earnings, the average revenue per contract increased \$88 to \$5,151 in the three months ended March 31, 2015. The number of traditional burial contracts remained flat, while the average revenue per burial contract increased 1.9% to \$8,595. The cremation rate for same store businesses increased from 48.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 50.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2015, and the number of cremation contracts increased 9.9% to 3,544. The average revenue per same store cremation contract increased 7.3% to \$3,208, as cremations with services increased from 30.4% of total cremation contracts in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 32.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2015. The average revenue for “other” contracts, which are charges for merchandise or services for which we do not perform a funeral service and which made up approximately 7.3% of the total number of contracts in the first quarter of 2015, increased 3.6% to \$2,255.

Same store operating profit for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$1.7 million, or 12.8%, from the three months ended March 31, 2014, and as a percentage of funeral same store operating revenue, increased from 38.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 40.6% in the same period of 2015. The increase in operating profit was a result of the increase in revenue and better management of controllable expenses. As a percentage of same store revenue, controllable expenses were 40.8% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to 39.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2015.

Funeral home acquired revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$3.9 million, or 50.2%, when compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014, as we experienced a 49.8% increase in the number of contracts due to our acquisition of certain funeral homes from Service Corporation International on May 15, 2014 (the “SCI Acquisition”) and a slight increase in the average revenue per contract of 0.7% to \$6,079. Excluding funeral trust earnings, the average revenue per contract increased 0.3% to \$5,916. The number of traditional burial contracts increased 37.2% and the average revenue per burial contract increased 2.8% to \$8,604. The cremation rate for the acquired businesses was 36.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to 40.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2015. The average revenue per cremation contract increased 10.3% to \$3,670, and the number of cremation contracts increased 62.8% to 796 in the three months ended March 31, 2015. Cremations with services

increased from 41.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 42.3% for the three months ended March 31, 2015.

Acquired operating profit for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$1.9 million, or 65.7%, from the three months ended March 31, 2014 and, as a percentage of revenue from acquired businesses, increased from 37.8% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 41.7% in the same period of 2015. The increase in operating profit was a result of the increase in acquired revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and a decrease in controllable expenses of acquired operations

- 40 -

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Table of Contents

as a percentage of revenue. As a percentage of acquired revenue, controllable expenses were 42.9% for the three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to 39.6% for the three months ended March 31, 2015. The SCI Acquisition, which comprises approximately 30% of acquired operating profit, achieved operating margins of 44.6% for the three months ended March 31, 2015.

The two categories of financial revenue (insurance commissions and trust earnings on matured preneed contracts) on a combined basis increased 2.9% in revenue in the three months ended March 31, 2015 due to an increase of approximately \$0.3 million in preneed funeral trust earnings, offset, in part, by a decrease of approximately \$0.2 million in preneed funeral insurance commissions. Funeral trust earnings from our acquired locations increased approximately \$0.1 million due primarily to the SCI Acquisition. Funeral trust earnings for our same store operations increased approximately \$0.2 million due to an approximate 8% increase in the number of preneed contracts that matured in the first quarter of 2015. Trust earnings also include trust management fees charged by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor based on the fair market value of the trust assets. Operating profit for the two categories of financial revenue, on a combined basis, increased 2.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2015 due to the increase of \$0.3 million in preneed funeral trust earnings, offset, in part by a decrease of \$0.2 million in preneed funeral insurance commissions operating profit. Funeral trust earnings operating profit increased primarily due the increase in trust revenue. Preneed funeral insurance commissions operating profit decreased as a result of the decrease in preneed insurance commission revenue recognized in three months ended March 31, 2015 and an increase in preneed insurance expenses for preneed insurance commission sales in the three months ended March 31, 2015. Cemetery Segment. The following tables set forth certain information regarding the revenues and operating profit from the cemetery operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015.

Three months ended March 31, 2014 compared to three months ended March 31, 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Change		
	March 31, 2014	2015	Amount	%	
Revenues:					
Same store operating revenue	\$9,712	\$10,268	\$556	5.7	%
Acquired operating revenue	55	822	767	1,394.5	%
Cemetery trust earnings	1,584	1,641	57	3.6	%
Preneed cemetery finance charges	337	385	48	14.2	%
Total	\$11,688	\$13,116	\$1,428	12.2	%
Operating profit:					
Same store operating profit	\$2,838	\$3,550	\$712	25.1	%
Acquired operating profit	(8	) 300	308	3,850.0	%
Cemetery trust earnings	1,561	1,579	18	1.2	%
Preneed cemetery finance charges	337	385	48	14.2	%
Total	\$4,728	\$5,814	\$1,086	23.0	%

Cemetery same store operating revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$0.6 million, or 5.7%, when compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014. Preneed property revenue increased \$0.8 million, or 19.0%, as we experienced a 22.7% increase in the number of preneed interment rights (property) sold. Though the average price per interment decreased 3.9% to \$2,580 in the three months ended March 31, 2015, the percentage of those preneed interment rights sold that we were able to recognize as revenue, because we received at least 10% of the sales price from the customer, increased from 91.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to 92.4% in the three months ended March 31, 2015. Similarly, the number of at-need contracts increased 1.3% to 3,364 in the three months ended March 31, 2015 though the same store at-need revenue decreased 1.1% to \$4.3 million as the average revenue per at-need contract decreased 2.4% to \$1,282.

Cemetery same store operating profit for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$0.7 million, or 25.1%. As a percentage of revenue, cemetery same store operating profit increased from 29.2% in the three months ended

March 31, 2014 to 34.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2015. The increase in cemetery same store operating profit was due primarily to the increase in revenue, a decrease in bad debt expense of approximately \$0.3 million and better management of controllable expenses.

- 41 -

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Table of Contents

Cemetery acquired revenue and acquired operating profit increased in the first quarter of 2015 primarily due to the cemetery acquired in the SCI Acquisition. The SCI acquisition comprises over 90% of the cemetery acquired operating revenue and profit for the three months ended March 31, 2015.

The two categories of financial revenue consist of trust earnings and finance charges on preneed receivables. Total trust earnings increased 3.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to the same period of 2014. Earnings from perpetual care trust funds increased 3.7% from approximately \$1.0 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014 to \$1.1 million in the three months ended March 31, 2015. Trust earnings recognized upon the delivery of merchandise and service contracts remained flat at \$0.3 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015. Trust earnings also include trust management fees charged by our wholly-owned registered investment advisor based on the fair market value of the trust assets. Finance charges on the preneed contracts increased 14.2% quarter over quarter due to finance charges related to the contracts acquired in the SCI Acquisition, an increase in the number of preneed sales in the first quarter of 2015 and an increased focus on collections.

**Regional and Unallocated Funeral and Cemetery Costs.** Regional and unallocated funeral and cemetery costs consist of salaries and benefits for regional management, field incentive compensation and other related costs for field infrastructure. Regional and unallocated funeral and cemetery costs increased \$0.1 million, or 6.2%, primarily due to an increase in expenses associated with regional training.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expenses totaled \$7.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015, a decrease of \$2.2 million, or 23.2%, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014. The decrease was primarily due to a \$1.0 million special one-time bonus payment related to an amended employment agreement in the first quarter of 2014 and \$0.8 million for stock based compensation related to the performance awards payout in the first quarter of 2014, both of which did not occur in the first quarter of 2015, a combined \$0.8 million decrease in termination expenses, legal, other consulting and public company costs and a \$0.2 million decrease in acquisition and divestiture expenses, offset by a \$0.4 million increase in non-cash stock compensation and a \$0.2 million increase in salaries and benefits.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense was \$2.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$2.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, a decrease of approximately \$0.3 million. The decrease in interest expense is primarily due to our convertible subordinated notes issued in May 2014 which have a lower fixed interest rate of 2.75% compared to our redeemed junior convertible subordinated notes which had an interest rate of 7%.

**Accretion of Discount on Convertible Subordinated Notes.** For the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, we recognized accretion of the discount on our convertible subordinated notes issued in March 2014 of \$0.2 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. Accretion is calculated using the effective interest method based on a stated interest rate of 6.75%.

**Loss on redemption of convertible subordinated debentures.** On March 17, 2014, we called for the redemption of all our outstanding convertible junior subordinated debentures due 2029 held by Carriage Services Capital Trust and the corresponding 7% convertible preferred securities ("TIDES") at a price \$50 per \$50 principal amount of the convertible junior subordinated debentures being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. As of April 16, 2014, all of the TIDES had been redeemed. For the three months ended March 31, 2014, we recognized a total loss of \$3.8 million as a result of the write-off of the related unamortized debt issuance costs of \$2.9 million and \$0.9 million for the premium paid on the convertible junior subordinated debentures redeemed.

**Other Income.** For the three months ended March 31, 2014, we recognized a gain of \$1.1 million in connection with the purchase of a funeral home building previously leased under a capital lease.

**Income Taxes.** We recorded income taxes at the estimated effective rate, before discreet items, of 40.5% for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to 39.0% for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The increase was primarily due to the increase in our taxable income for the three months ended March 31, 2015 which increased our federal rate from 34% to 35%. We have approximately \$42.2 million of state net operating loss carry forwards that will expire between 2016 and 2036, if not utilized. Based on management's assessment of the various state net operating losses, it has been determined that it is more likely than not that we will not be able to realize the tax benefits of certain portions of the state losses. Accordingly, a valuation allowance has been established and is reviewed every quarter related to the deferred tax asset for the state operating losses. At March 31, 2015, the valuation

allowance totaled \$0.2 million.

- 42 -

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Table of Contents

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our primary sources of liquidity and capital resources are internally generated cash flows from operating activities and availability under our Credit Facility (as defined below under Debt Obligations). We generate cash in our operations primarily from at-need sales and delivery of preneed sales. We also generate cash from earnings on our cemetery perpetual care trusts. We believe that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations and borrowings under our Credit Facility will be sufficient to meet our anticipated working capital requirements, capital expenditures, scheduled debt payments, commitments, dividend payments and acquisitions for the foreseeable future. Based on our recent operating results, current cash position, anticipated future cash flows and sources of financing that we expect to have available, we do not anticipate any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future. However, if our capital expenditures or acquisition plans change, we may need to access the capital markets to obtain additional funding. Further, to the extent operating cash flow or access to and cost of financing sources are materially different than expected, future liquidity may be adversely affected. Please read Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

We intend to use cash on hand and borrowings under our Credit Facility primarily to acquire funeral home and cemetery businesses and for internal growth projects, such as cemetery inventory development and funeral home expansion projects. We have the ability to draw on our revolving credit facility, subject to customary terms and conditions of the credit agreement. We believe that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations and the borrowings under our Credit Facility described below will be sufficient to meet our anticipated working capital requirements, capital expenditures, scheduled debt payments, commitments, dividends and acquisitions for the foreseeable future.

## Cash Flows

We began 2015 with \$0.4 million in cash and other liquid investments and ended the first quarter with \$0.3 million in cash. As of March 31, 2015, we had borrowings of \$41.0 million outstanding on our revolving credit facility compared to \$40.5 million outstanding as of December 31, 2014.

The following table sets forth the elements of cash flow for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2015
Cash at January 1st	\$1.4	\$0.4
Cash flow provided by (used in) operating activities	(1.6	) 12.6
Acquisitions	—	(4.3
Net proceeds from the sale of businesses and other assets	0.2	—
Growth capital expenditures	(4.1	) (4.6
Maintenance capital expenditures	(0.9	) (1.8
Net payments on our revolving credit facility, term loan and long-term debt obligations	(40.1	) (2.2
Proceeds from issuance of convertible subordinated notes	143.7	—
Payment of debt issuance costs related the convertible subordinated notes	(4.4	) —
Redemption of convertible junior subordinated debentures	(61.9	) —
Payments for performance-based stock awards	(16.2	) —
Dividends on common stock	(0.4	) (0.5
Excess tax benefit of equity compensation	5.6	0.4
Other financing costs	0.6	0.3
Cash at March 31st	\$21.9	\$0.3

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, cash provided by operating activities was \$12.6 million compared to cash used in operating activities of \$1.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 due primarily to a \$4.2 million increase in net income and other working capital changes.

Our investing activities resulted in a net cash outflow of \$10.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$4.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we acquired a funeral home for approximately \$4.3 million in cash and had capital expenditures of approximately \$6.4 million. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, we had no business acquisitions and had capital expenditures of approximately

- 43 -

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Table of Contents

\$5.0 million. Additionally, we received net proceeds from the sale of businesses and other assets of \$0.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, capital expenditures totaled \$6.4 million compared to \$5.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Maintenance capital expenditures were \$1.8 million in the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$0.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Growth capital expenditures were \$4.6 million and \$4.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Our financing activities resulted in a net cash outflow of \$2.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to a net cash inflow of \$27.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we had net payments on our revolving credit facility and term loan of \$1.8 million compared to net payments of \$39.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. We recognized \$0.4 million related to the excess tax benefit of equity compensation in the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$5.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014. Additionally, in the three months ended March 31, 2014, we had gross proceeds of \$143.75 million from the issuance of our convertible subordinated notes in March 2014. We paid transaction costs of approximately \$4.3 million related to the issuance of these notes in the three months ended March 31, 2014. In connection with the issuance of the notes, we paid \$61.9 million in principal to redeem our outstanding convertible junior subordinated debentures. Additionally, during the three months ended March 31, 2014, we paid approximately \$16.2 million related to performance-based stock awards.

**Dividends**

During the three months ended March 31, 2015, our Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.025 per share, totaling approximately \$0.5 million, which was paid on March 2, 2015 to record holders of our common stock as of February 13, 2015. We have a dividend reinvestment program so that stockholders may elect to reinvest their dividends into additional shares of our common stock.

**Debt Obligations**

As of March 31, 2015, we had a \$325 million secured bank credit facility (the "Credit Facility") with Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent, comprised of a \$200 million revolving credit facility and a \$125 million term loan. The Credit Facility also contains an accordion provision to borrow up to an additional \$50 million in revolving loans, subject to certain conditions. The Credit Facility matures on March 31, 2019 and is collateralized by all personal property and funeral home real property in certain states. As of March 31, 2015, we had outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility of \$41.0 million and approximately \$118.0 million was outstanding on the term loan. No letters of credit were issued and outstanding under the Credit Facility at March 31, 2015. Under the Credit Facility, outstanding borrowings bear interest at either a prime rate or a LIBOR rate, plus an applicable margin based upon the Company's leverage ratio. At March 31, 2015, the prime rate margin was equivalent to 1.50% and the LIBOR margin was 2.50%. The weighted average interest rate on the Credit Facility for the three ended months March 31, 2015 was 2.7%. Borrowings under the term loan facility are subject to installment payments of 7.5% of the principal amount in the first two years following the effective date, 10.0% of the principal amount for the third and fourth years following the effective date and 12.5% of the principal amount per year thereafter, with the remaining balance payable upon maturity on March 31, 2019. Installment payments are made quarterly.

The outstanding principal of our long-term debt and capital lease obligations at March 31, 2015 totaled \$167.6 million and consisted of \$118.0 million under our term loan, \$41.0 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility and \$8.7 million in acquisition indebtedness and capital lease obligations.

We were in compliance with the covenants contained in the Credit Facility as of March 31, 2015. Key ratios that we must comply with include a Total Debt to EBITDA ratio, that as of the last day of each quarter, must not be greater than 3.50 to 1.00 and a fixed charge coverage ratio that must not be less than 1.20 to 1.00. As of March 31, 2015, the leverage ratio was 2.46 to 1.00 and the fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.15 to 1.00.

**Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2021**

On March 19, 2014, we issued \$143.75 million aggregate principal amount of 2.75% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2021 (the "Notes"). The Notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and were offered only to "qualified institutional buyers" in compliance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act. The Notes are governed by an indenture dated as of March 19, 2014 between Wilmington Trust, National Association,

as Trustee, and us (the “Indenture“). The Notes are general unsecured obligations and will be subordinated in the right of payment to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness and equal in right of payment with our other existing and future subordinated indebtedness. The Notes bear interest at 2.75% per year. Interest on the Notes began to accrue on March 19, 2014 and is payable semi-annually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 of each year. The initial conversion rate of the Notes is 44.3169 shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes, equivalent to an initial conversion price of

- 44 -

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Table of Contents

approximately \$22.56 per share of common stock. The conversion rate is subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events, as described in the Indenture.

The Notes mature on March 15, 2021, unless earlier converted or purchased by us. Holders of the Notes may convert their Notes at their option at any time prior to December 15, 2020 if one or more of the following conditions has been satisfied: (1) during any fiscal quarter (and only during such fiscal quarter) commencing after March 31, 2014, if, for a least 20 trading days, (whether or not consecutive) during the 30 consecutive trading day period ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter, the last reported sales price of our common stock for such trading day is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price on such trading day; (2) during the five consecutive business day period immediately following any five consecutive trading day period (the "Measurement Period"), in which, for each trading day of the Measurement Period, the trading price (as defined in the Indenture) per \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes for such trading day was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock for such trading day and the applicable conversion rate on such trading day; or (3) upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions described in the Indenture. Holders may also convert their Notes at their option at any time beginning on December 15, 2020, and ending on the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the maturity date.

We may not redeem the Notes prior to maturity. However, in the event of a fundamental change (as defined in the Indenture), subject to certain conditions, a holder of the Notes will have the option to require us to purchase all or a portion of its Notes for cash. The fundamental change purchase price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be purchased, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the fundamental change purchase date.

We received gross proceeds of \$143.75 million and incurred transaction costs of approximately \$4.7 million, of which \$4.3 million was paid in the first quarter of 2014. We used a portion of the proceeds to repay our outstanding balance on our revolving credit facility and to redeem our existing convertible junior subordinated debentures.

At March 31, 2015, the carrying amount of the equity component was approximately \$18.0 million. At March 31, 2015, the principal amount of the liability component was \$143.75 million and the net carrying amount was \$115.4 million. The unamortized discount of \$28.4 million as of March 31, 2015 is being amortized over the remaining term. The effective interest rate on the liability component for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was 6.75%. Interest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015 included contractual coupon interest expense of \$0.1 million and \$1.0 million, respectively, and amortization of debt issuance costs of approximately \$44,000 and \$0.1 million, respectively. Accretion of the discount on the convertible subordinated notes was \$0.2 million and \$0.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2015, respectively. The unamortized discount is being amortized over the remaining term

**SEASONALITY**

Our business can be affected by seasonal fluctuations in the death rate. Generally, the death rate is higher during the winter months because the incidences of death from influenza and pneumonia are higher during this period than other periods of the year.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

In the ordinary course of business, we are typically exposed to a variety of market risks. Currently, these are primarily related to interest rate risk and changes in the values of securities associated with the preneed and perpetual care trusts. Management is actively involved in monitoring exposure to market risk and developing and utilizing appropriate risk management techniques when appropriate and when available for a reasonable price. We are not exposed to any other significant market risks.

The following quantitative and qualitative information is provided about financial instruments to which we are a party at March 31, 2015 and from which we may incur future gains or losses from changes in market conditions. We do not enter into derivative or other financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes.

Hypothetical changes in interest rates and the values of securities associated with the preneed and perpetual care trusts chosen for the following estimated sensitivity analysis are considered to be reasonable near-term changes generally based on consideration of past fluctuations for each risk category. However, since it is not possible to accurately predict future changes in interest rates, these hypothetical changes may not necessarily be an indicator of probable

future fluctuations.

The following information about our market-sensitive financial instruments constitutes a “forward-looking statement.”

- 45 -

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Table of Contents

In connection with our preneed funeral operations and preneed cemetery merchandise and service sales, the related funeral and cemetery trust funds own investments in equity and debt securities and mutual funds, which are sensitive to current market prices. Cost and market values of such investments as of March 31, 2015 are presented in Item 1, "Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements," Notes 5, 7 and 9 to our Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-Q. See also Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in this Form 10-Q. The sensitivity of the fixed income securities is such that a 0.25% change in interest rates causes an approximate 1.54% change in the value of the fixed income securities.

We monitor current and forecasted interest rate risk in the ordinary course of business and seek to maintain optimal financial flexibility, quality and solvency. As of March 31, 2015, we had outstanding borrowings of \$41.0 million under our \$200 million revolving credit facility and approximately \$118.0 million outstanding on our term loan. Any further borrowings or voluntary prepayments against the revolving credit facility or any change in the floating rate would cause a change in interest expense. We have the option to pay interest under the Credit Facility at either prime rate or LIBOR rate plus a margin. At March 31, 2015, the prime rate margin was equivalent to 1.50% and the LIBOR margin was 2.50%. Assuming the outstanding balance remains unchanged, a change of 100 basis points in our borrowing rate would result in a change in income before taxes of \$1.6 million. We have not entered into interest rate hedging arrangements in the past. Management continually evaluates the cost and potential benefits of interest rate hedging arrangements.

Our convertible subordinated notes bear interest at a fixed rate of 2.75% per year. The notes do not contain a call feature. At March 31, 2015, the fair value of these notes was approximately \$172.3 million based on the last traded or broker quoted price. The remainder of our long-term debt and leases consist of non-interest bearing notes and fixed rate instruments that do not trade in a market and do not have a quoted market value. Increases in market interest rates may cause the fair value of these debt instruments to decrease but such changes will not affect our interest costs.

Table of Contents

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Management's Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, including our principal executive and financial officers, has evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and to ensure that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive and financial officers, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Based on such evaluation, our principal executive and financial officers have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2015 (the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q) at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the three months ended March 31, 2015, there was no change in our system of internal control over financial reporting (defined in Rules 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

## PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

## Item 1. Legal Proceedings

In addition to the matters in Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, we and our subsidiaries are parties to a number of legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. While the outcome of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not expect these matters to have a material adverse effect on our financial statements. We self-insure against certain risks and carry insurance with coverage and coverage limits for risk in excess of the coverage amounts consistent with our assessment of risks in our business and of an acceptable level of financial exposure. Although there can be no assurance that self-insurance reserves and insurance will be sufficient to mitigate all damages, claims, or contingencies, we believe that the reserves and our insurance provides reasonable coverage for known asserted and unasserted claims. In the event we sustain a loss from a claim, and the insurance carrier disputes coverage or coverage limits, we may record a charge in a different period than the recovery, if any, from the insurance carrier.

## Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes in our risk factors as previously disclosed in Part I, Item 1A. “Risk Factors” of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Readers should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or future results.

## Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
*31.1	Certification of Periodic Financial Reports by Melvin C. Payne in satisfaction of Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
*31.2	Certification of Periodic Financial Reports by L. William Heiligbrodt in satisfaction of Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
*32	Certification of Periodic Financial Reports by Melvin C. Payne and L. William Heiligbrodt in satisfaction of Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
*101	Interactive Data Files.

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\* Filed or furnished herewith, as applicable.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: May 5, 2015

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.  
/s/ L. William Heiligbrodt  
L. William Heiligbrodt  
Executive Vice President and Secretary  
(Principal Financial Officer)

- 49 -

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Table of Contents

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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